

THE WISDOM OF THE EAST SERIES

This series has a definite object. It is planned, by means of the best Oriental literature—its wisdom, philosophy, poetry, and ideals—to bring together West and East in a spirit of mutual sympathy, goodwill, and understanding. From India, China, Japan, Persia, Arabia, Palestine, and Egypt these words of wisdom have been gathered.

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THE WISDOM OF THE EAST SERIES

EDITED BY

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ALAN W WATTS**

THE MESSAGE OF ISLAM

The Message of Islam

*Being a résumé of the teaching of the
Qur-ān with special reference to the
spiritual and moral struggles of the human
soul*

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John Murray, Albemarle Street,
London W.

First Edition

1940

Made and Printed in Great Britain by
Butler & Tanner Ltd., Frome and London

FOREWORD

As a humble Muslim and a devout believer in the unity of God and the universality of His Message, I have tried to interpret the Qur-ān in the English language. In a complete translation with the Text and a full Commentary, the work occupies 1,849 large pages. In order to help such readers as were unfamiliar with the subject, or wished to get a bird's-eye view without going into details of scholarship, history, or theology, a rhythmic running commentary was included in the scheme, which summarised the main teaching of the Book in short paragraphs of free verse. These have been much appreciated, and a desire was expressed that they should be published separately, in a small volume, which would render them accessible to the general reader.

This has now been done. To meet the exigencies of space, the form of free verse has been discarded, and the whole has been printed in the form of prose, which may possibly make a better appeal to modern readers.

The attainment of a universal human brotherhood may in present circumstances seem to many to be a distant ideal. But it is worth working for. It can only be done by pooling our spiritual resources. In the words of paragraph 64,

"Keep together in your noble Brotherhood,
Share its joys and sorrows,
Strive and fight the good fight,
And fear not"

A. YUSUF ALI

LONDON.

August 12, 1939.

· EDITORIAL NOTE

THE object of the editors of this series is a very definite one. They desire above all things that in their humble way, these books shall be the ambassadors of good-will and understanding between East and West, the old world of Thought, and the new of Action. They are confident that a deeper knowledge of the great ideals and lofty philosophy of Oriental thought may help to a revival of that true spirit of Charity which neither despises nor fears the nations of another creed and colour.

L CRANMER-BYNG
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INTRODUCTION

God's Purpose with Man

1 Glory to God Most High, full of Grace and Mercy,
He created All, including Man

To Man He gave a special place in His Creation

He honoured man to be His Agent, and to that end,
endued him with understanding, purified his affections, and
gave him spiritual insight,

So that Man should understand Nature, understand himself,
and know God through His wondrous Signs, and
glorify Him in truth, reverence, and unity

2 For the fulfilment of this great trust Man was further
given a Will,

So that his acts should reflect God's universal Will and
Law, and his mind, freely choosing, should experience the
sublime joy of being in harmony with the Infinite, and with
the great drama of the world around him, and with his own
spiritual growth

3 But, created though he was in the best of moulds, Man
fell from Unity when his Will was warped, and he chose
the crooked path of Discord

And sorrow and pain, selfishness and degradation, ignorance
and hatred, despair and unbelief poisoned his life,

And he saw shapes of evil in the physical, moral, and spiritual world, and in himself

4 Then did his soul rise against himself, and his self-discord made discord between kith and kin

Men began to fear the strong and oppress the weak, to boast in prosperity, and curse in adversity, and to flee each other, pursuing phantoms,

For the truth and reality of Unity was gone from their minds

5 When men spread themselves over the earth, and became many nations, speaking diverse languages, and observing diverse customs and laws,

The evils became multiplied, as one race or nation became alienated from another

The Brotherhood of Man was now doubly forgotten,—first, between individuals, and secondly, between nations

Arrogance, selfishness, and untruth were sown and reaped in larger fields,

And Peace, Faith, Love, and Justice were obscured over masses of men, as large tracts of land are starved of sunshine by clouds floating far on high.

6 But God in His infinite mercy and love, Who forgives and guides individuals and nations and turns to good even what seems to us evil, never forsakes the struggling soul that turns to Him,

Nor the groups of men and women who join together to obey His Will and Law and strengthen each other in unity and truth,

Nor the Nations that dwell in mountain or valley, heat or cold, in regions fertile or arid,

In societies that roam over land or seas, or hunt, or tend flocks, or till the soil, or seek the seas for food or oil, or fat, or gems,

Or dig out from the bowels of the earth precious stones, or metals or stored-up heat and energy, or practise arts and crafts, or produce abundant wealth by machines of ingenious workmanship,

Or live a frugal life of contemplation

For all are children of One God,

And share his loving care and must be brought within the pale of His eternal unity and harmony

The Light of His Revelation

7 And so this light of eternal Unity has shone in all ages and among all nations,

Through chosen Apostles of God, who came as men to dwell among men,

To share their joys and sorrows, to suffer for them and with them,—

Aye, and to suffer more than falls to ordinary mortal lot,—

That so their message and their life might fulfil the eternal and unchanging purpose of the Most High,—

To lead man to his noblest destiny

8 Ever this eternal light of Unity, this mystic light of God's own Will, has shone and shines with undiminished splendour

The names of many Messengers are inscribed in the records of many nations and many tongues,

And many were the forms in which their message was delivered

According to the needs of the time and the understanding of the people ,

And manifold were the lives of the Messengers, and manifold also was the response of their people ,

But they all witnessed to the One Truth of God's unity, might, grace, and love

9 As the records of man are imperfect, and the memory of man unstable

The names of many of these messengers are known in one place and not in another, or among one people and not among others ,

And some of their names may have perished utterly ,

But their message stands one and indivisible,

Even though it may have been forgotten, or twisted by ignorance, error, superstition, or perversity ,

Or misunderstood in the blinding light of time or tortuous Circumstance

10 Many were the faiths in the composite world of Western Asia, Northern Africa, and Europe,

And many were the fragments of ancient wisdom, saved, transformed, renewed, or mingled ,

And many new streams of wisdom were poured through the crucibles of noble minds,—prophets, poets, preachers, philosophers, and thinking men of action ,

And many were the conflicts, and many the noble attempts reaching out towards Unity,

And many were the subtle influences interchanged with the other worlds of further and Eastern Asia,—

Aye, and perchance with the scattered Isles of the Pacific and the world between the Atlantic and the Pacific

The Voice of Unity

11 At length came the time when the Voice of Unity should speak and declare to the People,

Without the need of Priests or Priest-craft,

Without miracles save those that happen now and always in the spiritual world,

Without mystery, save those mysteries which unfold themselves in the growing inner experience of man and his vision of God,—

To declare with unfaltering voice the Unity of God, the Brotherhood of Man,

And Grace and Mercy, Bounty and Love, poured out in unstinted measure for ever and ever

12 And this great healing light shone among a people steeped in ignorance,

Brave and free, but without cohesion or union,

Simple and rude, but with an easy familiarity with Nature,

Accustomed to Nature's hardships and her rugged resistance to man, but dreaming of the delights of gardens and fruitful fields,

Cruel, yet with a rough sense of equality,

And wielding a tongue, flexible, beautiful, and able to respond, with brevity and eloquence, to the sublimest thoughts which man could conceive.

13. Who were fit to be vehicles of this light?—
Not men intoxicated with words and mysteries,
Men whom politics had debauched or tyranny had
subdued,

Men whose refinement had ended in vices,
Who saw Nature only through books or artificial conceits,
or in moods which bred softness, indolence, or luxury,

Who spoke of love and justice, but practised gross selfish-
ness between class and class, sex and sex, condition and
condition;

And had perverted their language, once beautiful, into
jargons of empty elegance and unmeaning futility

14. For the glory of Hellas, and her freedom and wisdom
had departed,

Rome's great systems of law, organisation, and universal
citizenship had sunk into the mire of ecclesiastical formalism
and dogmatism, and exclusive arrogance,

The living fire of Persia's Prophet scarce smouldered in her
votaries of luxury,

In India, countless castes and kingdoms cancelled the unity
of Buddha's teaching,

The wounds of China had not yet been healed by T'ang
culture,

And Japan was still a disciple of China

15. Then, in the sacred city of pagan Arabia, shone a light
that spread in all directions.

It was centrally placed for the bounds of the world of
men's habitations in Asia, Europe, and Africa.

It made the Arabs the leading nation of culture and science,
of organised enterprise, law, and arts,
With a zeal for the conquest of Nature and her mysteries.

Muhammad

16. Behold ! There was born into the world of sense the unlettered Apostle,

The comely child, noble of birth, but nobler still in the grace and wisdom of human love and human understanding ,

Dowered with the key which opened to him the enchanted palace of nature ,

Marked out to receive—to receive and preach in burning words the spiritual truth and message of the Most High

17 Others before had been born in darkness, beyond the reach of history ,

Others again it pleased God to send as Messengers, preaching, working in the dim twilight of history,

Wherein men fashion legends after their own hearts, and dimly seek a light afar, remote from lives mean and sordid, such as they knew

18 But Muhammad came in the fullest blaze of history ,

With no learning he put to shame the wisdom of the learned ,

With pasture folk he lived and worked, and won their love ;

In hills and valleys, caves and deserts, he wandered, but never lost his way to truth and righteousness ;

From his pure and spotless heart the Angels washed off the dust that flew around him ,

Through the ways of crooked city folk, he walked upright and straight,

And won from them the ungrudging name of the Man of Faith ¹ who never broke his word

19 To the Praiseworthy ² indeed be praise
Born in the Sacred City, ³ he destroyed its superstition,
Loyal to his people to the core, he stood for all humanity,
Orphan-born and poor, he envied not the rich, and made
his special care all those whom the world neglected or
oppressed,—

Orphans, women, slaves, and those in need of food or
comforts, mental solace, spiritual strength, or virtues down-
trodden in the haunts of men

20 His mother ⁴ and his foster-mother ⁵ loved and won-
dered at the child,

His grandfather, 'Abdul Muttalib, of all his twice-eight
children and their offspring, loved him best, and all his sweet
and gentle ways,

His uncle Abū Tālib, loth though he was to give up the
cult of his fathers, knew well the purity of Muhammad's
mind and soul,

And was his stoutest champion when the other chiefs of
Mecca sought to kill the man who challenged in his person
their narrow Pagan selfish lives

21. To his cousin 'Ali, the well-beloved, ⁶ born when he
was thirty,

¹ Al-Amin.

² Muhammad.

³ Mecca

⁴ Amma.

⁵ Halima.

⁶ Murtadhbā.

He appeared as the very pattern of a perfect man,
As gentle as he was wise and true and strong,
The one in whose defence and aid he spent his utmost
strength and skill,
Holding life cheap in support of a cause so high,
And placing without reserve his chivalry, his prowess, wit,
and learning, and his sword at the service of this mighty
Messenger of God

His Mission

22 Not till the age of forty¹ did he receive the Commission

To stand forth and proclaim the Bounty of God,
And His gift, to lowly Man, of knowledge by Word
and Pen ,

But all through his years of preparation he did search
the Truth ,

He sought it in Nature's forms and laws, her beauty and
her stern unflinching ways ,

He sought it in the inner world of human lives,
Men's joys and sorrows, their kindly virtues and their sins
of pride, injustice, cruel wrong, and greed of gain, scarce
checked by the inner voice

That spoke of duty, moral law, and higher still, the Will
preme of God, to which the will of man must tune itself
find its highest bliss

23. But as he grew, steadfast in virtue and purity,
Untaught by men, he learnt from them, and learned to
ach them ,

¹ The Arabian year before A.H. 10 was roughly luni-solar

Even as a boy of nine, when he went in a trade caravan with Abu Tālib to Syria,¹

His tender soul marked inwardly how God did speak,
In the wide expanse of deserts, in the stern grandeur of rocks, in the refreshing flow of streams, in the smiling bloom of gardens, in the art and skill with which men and birds and all life sought for light

From the Life of Lives, even as every plant seeks through devious ways the light of the Sun

24 Nor less was he grieved at Man's ingratitude
When he rebelled and held as naught the Signs of God, and turned His gifts to baser uses,

Driving rarer souls to hermit life,
Clouding the heavenly mirror of pure affections with selfish passions, mad unseemly wrangles, and hard unhallowed loathsome tortures of themselves

25 He worked and joyed in honest labour ,
He traded with integrity to himself and to others ,
He joined the throngs of cities and their busy life, but saw its good and evil as types of an inner and more lasting life hereafter ,

People gladly sought his help as umpire and peacemaker because they knew his soul was just and righteous ,

He loved the company of old and young, but oft withdrew to solitude for Prayer and inward spiritual strength ;

He despised not wealth but used it for others ,

¹ It was on such visits that he met and conversed with Nestorian Christian Monks like Bahira, who were quick to recognise his spiritual worth.

He was happy in poverty and used it as his badge and his pride,¹

When wealth was within his reach but not within his grasp,

As a man among men.

26 At twenty-five he was united in the holy bonds of wedlock with Khadija the Great,

The noble lady who befriended him when he had no worldly resources,

Trusted him when his worth was little known,
Encouraged and understood him in his spiritual struggles,
Believed in him when with trembling steps he took up the Call

And withstood obloquy, persecution, insults, threats, and tortures,

And was a life-long help-mate till she was gathered to the saints in his fifty-first year,—

A perfect woman, the mother of those that believe

27 There is a cave in the side of Mount Hiraa some three miles north of the City of Mecca,

In a valley which turns left from the road to 'Arafat,
To which Muhammad used to retire for peaceful contemplation

Often alone, but sometimes with Khadija
Days and nights he spent there with his Lord.
Hard were the problems he revolved in his mind,—
Harder and more cross-grained than the red granite of the rock around him,—

¹ "Poverty is my Pride" a saying of the Prophet

Problems not his own, but his people's,
Yea, and of human destiny, of the mercy of God, and the
age-long conflict of evil and righteousness, sin and abounding
Grace.

28 Not till forty years of earthly life had passed
Was the veil lifted from the Preserved Tablet
And its contents began to be transferred to the tablet of
his mind,

To be proclaimed to the world, and read and studied for
all time,—

A fountain of mercy and wisdom, a warning to the heedless,
a guide to the erring, an assurance to those in doubt, a solace
to the suffering, a hope to those in despair,—

To complete the chain of Revelation through the mouths
of divinely inspired Apostles

29 The Chosen One ¹ was in the Cave of Hiraa.
For two years and more he had prayed there and adore
his Creator

And wondered at the mystery of man
With his corruptible flesh, just growing out of human
seed,²

And the soul in him reaching out to knowledge sublime
new and ever new,

Taught by the bounty of God, and leading to that which
man himself knoweth not.

And now behold ! a dazzling vision of beauty and light
overpowered his senses, and he heard the word “ *Iqraa !* ”

¹ Mustafa.

² See Qur-an, S 96, 2.

30 " *Iqraa!* "—which being interpreted may mean " Read! " or " Proclaim! " or " Recite! "—

The unlettered Apostle was puzzled, he could not read.

The Angel seemed to press him to his breast in a close embrace, and the cry rang clear, " *Iqraa!* "

And so it happened three times,

Until the first overpowering sensation yielded to a collected grasp of the words which made clear his Mission,

Its Author, God the Creator,

Its subject, Man, God's wondrous handiwork, capable, by Grace, of rising to heights sublime,

And the instrument of that mission, the sanctified Pen, and the sanctified Book, the Gift of God, which men might read, or write, or study, or treasure in their souls

His First Disciples

31 The veil was lifted from the Chosen One's eyes,
And his soul for a moment was filled with divine ecstasy

* * *

When this passed, and he returned to the world of Time and Circumstance and this world of Sense,

He felt like one whose eyes had seen a light of dazzling beauty, and felt dazed on his return to common sights

The darkness now seemed tenfold dark;

The solitude seemed tenfold empty,

The mount of Hiraa, henceforth known as the Mountain of Light, the mere shell of an intense memory

Was it a dream?

Terror seized his limbs and he straightway sought her who shared his inmost life, and told her of his sense of exaltation, and the awful void when the curtain closed.

32. She understood, rejoiced, and comforted him ,
Gave strength to his shaken senses ,
Wrapped up in warmth his shivering body, unused as
yet to bear the strain and stress of an experience rare to
mortal men.

She knew it was no dream or delusion

She went and consulted her cousin Waraqa, a devout
worshipper of God in the Faith of Christ, learned in spiritual
lore

He listened and with her rejoiced that he, Muhammad, was
God's Chosen One to renew the Faith

33. She said "Blessed be thou, Chosen One !
"Do we not see thy inner life,—true and pure ?
"Do not all see thy outer life,—kind and gentle ?—
"Loyal to kin, hospitable to strangers ?
"No thought of harm or mischief ever stained thy mind,
"Nor word ever passed thy lips that was not true or
stilled not the passions of narrower men
"Ever ready in the service of God, thou art he of whom
I bear witness
"There's no God but He, and thou art His Chosen
Apostle "

34. Khadija believed, exalted in faith above all women
'Ali, the well-beloved, then a child of ten, but lion-hearted,
plighted his faith, and became from that moment the right
hand of Islam ,

Abū Bakr, the Sincere,¹ the True-hearted, the man
wealth and influence, who used both without stint for

¹ A title of Abū Bakr.

Cause, the sober counsellor, the inseparable friend, never hesitated to declare his faith ,

And Zaid, the freedman of Muhammad, counted his freedom as naught compared with the service of Muhammad and Islam

These were the first-fruits of the mission

A woman, a child, a man of affairs, and a freedman, all banded together in the equality of Islam.

The Task before Him

35 The revelation had come, the mission and the inspiration. But what was it leading to ?

It was a miracle, but not in the sense of a reversing of Nature ,

Mustafa's vision was linked with Eternity, but he was no soothsayer foretelling passing events ,

The mysteries of knowledge were being opened out, but his message was no mere esoteric doctrine, to be grasped by a few in contemplation, fleeing from action ,

Nor was it the practice of single or social monasticism, undisturbed by the whims or passions of life

He was asked to stand forth, to preach, to declare the One Universal God, the Gracious, the Merciful,

And to lead men to the Right and forbid the Wrong

36 The wrong ?— The selfish pride of birth,
The massing of power and wealth in the hands of a few,
The slaughter of female infants,
The orgies of gambling and drunkenness,
The frauds of temples and idols and priests,
The feuds and arrogance of tribes and races,

The separation of Sacred and Profane,
As if the unity of all Life and all Truth did not flow from
the unity of God Most High

37 He was loyal to his family, but could he support their monopoly of power?—

To his tribe, but were the Quraish the only creatures of God?—

To the temple of Mecca, but could he wink at Lāt and 'Uzzā, and the other monsters, whose worship killed the spiritual growth of Man?—

To the earlier Revelations, but could he hold with the superstitions and falsehoods, the dogmas and creeds which went against reason and nature, and the inner light which was now fanned into flame by the Will of God?

38 And so his very virtues and loyalties pointed to offence and conflict,

Mockery and misrepresentation, hatred and persecution, Threats, tortures, and exile for him and his,

And martyrdoms, wars, revolutions, and the shaking of the foundations of history and the social order

But Islam meant the willing submission of his will to God,

The active attainment of Peace through Conflict

39 And he gave that submission, not without effort, Even as Moses¹ did before him,

And Jesus² in the agony of the garden of Gethsemane.

* * *

¹ Qur-ān, S. 20, 25-32

² Matt. xxvi. 39

How the Qur-ān came

40 For three and twenty years, in patience, conflict, hope, and final triumph,

Did this man of God receive and teach the Message of the Most High

It came, like the fruit of the soul's own yearning, to teach profound spiritual truths,

Answer questions, appeal to men in their doubts and fears,

Help and put heart in them in moments of trial,

And ordain for them laws by which they could live in society lives of purity, goodness and peace

41 These messages came as inspiration to Muhammad as the need arose, on different occasions and in different places

He recited them, and they were recorded by the Pen

They were imprinted on his heart and mind, and on the memory of his loving disciples

As the body of sacred Scripture grew, it was arranged for purposes of public prayer and reading

This is the Book, or the Reading, or the Qur-ān

THE QUR-ĀN

PRAYER

S. 1. 42 First comes that beautiful Sūra,¹ the Opening Chapter of Seven Verses, rightly called the Essence of the Book

It teaches us the perfect Prayer

For if we can pray aright, it means that we have some knowledge of God and His attributes, of His relations to us and His creation, which includes ourselves ,

That we glimpse the source from which we come, and that final goal which is our spiritual destiny under God's true judgment

Then we offer ourselves to God and seek His light

43 Prayer is the heart of Religion and Faith But how shall we pray ?

What words shall convey the yearnings of our miserable ignorant hearts to the Knower of all ?

Is it worthy of Him or of our spiritual nature to ask for vanities, or even for such physical needs as our daily bread ?

The Inspired One taught us a Prayer that sums up our faith, our hope, and our aspiration in things that matter.

We think in devotion of God's name and His Nature ,

¹ Each "chapter" or division of the Qur-ān is called a Sūra, which means a Degree or Step, by which we mount up Here the Sūras are indicated as S 1, S 2, etc., down to S 114 at p 123

We praise Him for His creation and His cherishing care ,
We call to mind the Realities, seen and unseen ;
We offer Him worship and ask for His guidance ,
And we know the straight from the crooked path by the
light of His grace that illumines the righteous

MEN AND NATIONS

2 44 The Message of God is a guide that is sure to those
who seek His light

But those who reject faith are blind their hearts are sealed
Woe to the hypocrites, self-deceived and deceiving others,
With mockery on their lips, and mischief in their hearts,
and fear ,

The clouds that bring fertilising rain to others, to them
bring but deafening thunder-peals and lightning-flashes blinding
to their eyes

45 Yet man ! What wonderful destiny is thine !
Created to be God's vicegerent on earth ! A little higher
than angels !

Yet beguiled by evil ! Set for a season, this earth's probationer,
to purge thy stain,

With the promise of guidance and hope from on high,
from the Oft-Returning, Merciful !

Wilt thou choose right and regain thy spiritual home with
God ?

46. Amongst men what nation had higher chances in the
realm of the Spirit than the Children of Israel ?

But again and again did they fail in the Spirit.

They rebelled against Moses and murmured in the wilderness ,

The Prophets they slew and the Signs they rejected ,
They falsified Scripture and turned their backs on
righteousness.

47 The people of Moses and the people of Jesus were given
revelations,

But alas ! they played false with their own lights, and in
their selfishness, made narrow God's universal message

To them it seemed incredible that His light should illumine
Arabia and reform the world

But His ways are wondrous, and they are clear to those
who have Faith

48 If the People of the Book rely upon Abraham, let them
study his history

His posterity included both Israel and Ismā'il
Abraham was a righteous man of God, a Muslim, and so
were his children

Abraham and Ismā'il built the Ka'ba as the house of God
and purified it, to be a centre of worship for all the world .

For God is the God of all Peoples

49 But those people have passed away, who promised to
uphold the Law of God

Their progeny having been found unworthy, their place
was taken by a new people looking towards Mecca,—

A new people, with a new Messenger,
To bear witness to God's Law, to proclaim the truth,
maintain His symbols, and strive and fight for Unity in
God's Way

50 The Society thus organised must live under laws that would guide their every-day life,—

Based on eternal principles of righteousness and fair dealing, cleanliness and sobriety, honesty and helpfulness, one to another,—

Yet shaped into concrete forms, to suit times and circumstances, and the varying needs of average men and women

The food to be clean and wholesome, blood feuds to be abolished; the rights and duties of heirs to be recognised after death, not in a spirit of Formalism, but to help the weak and the needy and check all selfish wrong-doing,

Self-denial to be learnt by fasting,
The courage to fight in defence of right, to be defined,
The Pilgrimage to be sanctified as a symbol of unity,
Charity and help to the poor to be organised,
Unseemly riot and drink and gambling to be banished,
Orphans to be protected,
Marriage, divorce, and widowhood to be regulated,
And the rights of women, apt to be trampled underfoot,
now clearly affirmed

51 Fighting in defence of Truth and Right is not to be undertaken light-heartedly, nor to be evaded as a duty

Life and Death are in the hands of God.
Not all can be chosen to fight for God It requires constancy, firmness, and faith

Given these, large armies can be routed by those who battle for God,

As shown by the courage of David, whose prowess single-handed disposed of the Philistines.

The mission of some of the apostles, like Jesus, was different,
—less wide in scope than that of Mustafa

God's plan is universal, and He carries it out as He wills

GOD AND MAN

52 Who can describe the nature of God ?

The Living, the Eternal .

His Throne extends over worlds and worlds that no
imagination can encompass

His truth is clear as daylight

How can compulsion advance Religion ?

The keys of Life and Death, and the mysteries of every-
thing around us, are in His hands

Our duty then is to seek the path of goodness, kindness,
upright conduct and Charity,—

To grasp at no advantage from a brother's need, to stand
by the word that is pledged, to bear true witness, and remove
all cause of misunderstanding in our dealings as between man
and man

53 Our honesty and upright conduct are not mere matters
of policy or convenience

All our life in this world must be lived as in the presence
of God

The finest example of Faith we have in the Apostle's life
Full of faith, let us render willing obedience to God's Will,
Our responsibility, though great, is not a burden greater
than we can bear .

Let us pray for God's assistance, and He will help.

3 54 The Qur-ān revelation has, step by step, confirmed the Law of Moses and the Gospel of Jesus

It is a guide from God, and appeals to reason and understanding

Let us understand it rightly, in reverence and truth, unswayed by those who reject faith, and seeking ever the reward of the Pleasure of God, through firmness, patience, discipline, and charity, and offering others the light which we have ourselves received.

3 55 If the People who received earlier revelations confine themselves to partial truths, and in their pride shut their eyes to the whole of the Book of God, their day is done

Let the Muslims seek the society and friendship of their own, and trust in God, who knows all, and holds every soul responsible for its own deeds

56 God's truth is continuous, and His Apostles from Adam, through Noah and Abraham, down to the last of the Prophets, Muhammad, form one brotherhood

Of the progeny of 'Imrān, father of Moses and Aaron, sprang a woman, who devoted her unborn offspring to God

The child was Mary the mother of Jesus

Her cousin was the wife of the priest Zakariyā, who took charge of Mary

To Zakariyā, in his old age, was born a son Yahyā, amid prodigies.

Yahyā was the herald of Jesus the son of Mary, and was known as John the Baptist

Jesus was of virgin birth, and performed many miracles

But those to whom he came as Prophet rejected him, and plotted for his death.

Their plots failed, for God's Plan is above man's plots.
So will it be with Islam, the Truth from all eternity

57 Islam doth invite all people to the Truth there is no cause for dissembling or disputing

False are the people who corrupt God's truth, or hinder men from coming to God.

Let the Muslims hold together in unity and discipline, knowing that they have a mission of righteousness for humanity

No harm can come to them.

Though there are good men and true in other Faiths, Muslims must be true to their own Brotherhood

They should seek help and friendship from their own, and stand firm in constancy and patient perseverance

8 God's help comes to those who strive with firmness, as it did at Badr

Much can be learnt from the misfortunes at Uhud

It is not for us to question God's Plan, which is full of wisdom and mercy for all

Our duty is to stand firm and unswerving, to obey, and in steadfast courage to persevere, to retrieve our mistakes, not in grief and despair, but in firm hope in God and in contempt of pain and death.

PLAN TO BE FIRM AND TO TRUST IN GOD

59 Uhud showed how dangerous it was to lend ear to enemy suggestions, to disobey orders, dispute, lose courage, or seek selfish ends; some even followed the evil course of turning back.

But great is God's mercy where He helps, no harm can come.

Trust your Leader.

The Hypocrites, in withdrawing from battle, were really helping the Unbelievers, but glorious were those who knew no fear,

Those killed in the Cause of God yet live and thrive and do rejoice,

And never can those who fight against Faith hurt in the least the Cause of God

60 Regard, unmoved, the taunts of those who laugh at faith, nor let their falsehood nor their seeming prosperity, raise questions in your minds

All who can read the Signs of God in Nature know His wisdom, goodness, power, and justice

They know His promise is sure, and, in humble prayer, wholly put their trust in Him.

WHAT IS A GOOD LIFE IN SOCIETY?

4. 61 All mankind are one, and mutual rights must be respected

The sexes must honour, each the other,

Sacred are family relationships that rise through marriage and women bearing children,

Orphans need especial loving care,

In trust is held all property, with duties well-defined,

And after death, due distribution should be made in equitable shares to all whose affection, duty, and trust shed light and joy on this our life below

62 What can be a holier cement to Society than that women and men should be chaste and pure, and crimes against sex rooted out ?

Let decency, kindness, and justice prevail in all sex relationships ,

Let marriage be cherished and carefully guarded , women's rights secured , family jars adjusted , and all life lived in faith, charity, and kindness sincere to all our fellow-creatures

63 Be clean and pure, and seek no occasions for quibbles, nor go after sorcery or false gods.

Be faithful in your trusts, learn obedience, and settle your quarrels under the guidance of God's Apostle

Ever keep away from hypocrisy and every kind of falsehood

Then will you be admitted to a glorious Fellowship with the highest and noblest in the spiritual world

64 Keep together in your noble Brotherhood

Share its joys and sorrows strive and fight the good fight and fear not for this life is short, and the Hereafter eternal.

Allow not yourselves to be drawn into unbelief and cowardice maintain the Right

Protect yourselves against Hypocrites and Deserters, but pursue them not unrelentingly

65. The lives of those who believe are sacred :

If one is slain by mistake, full compensation should be made

Nor should a stranger, even in time of war, be treated as an enemy, without the fullest investigation.

Live not in places hostile to Islam, if ye are able to migrate,
and spacious is God's earth

Devotion and prayer may be shortened in times of danger

Take every precaution for safety, but be bold and undaunted
in fight

66 Beware of treachery, that would use the good and pious
for its wicked ends.

Its plots will but recoil on its own head

The righteous have no cause for secrecy, except in doing
good

'Tis evil that misleads, deceives, and even dares deface fair
Nature, as by God created

Shun all evil, and be firm in righteousness and faith in God

67. Justice to women and orphans is part of religion and
the fear of God

Stand out firmly for justice to all, even against yourselves
or your nearest of kin

Remain firm in faith, and consort not with evil or hypocrisy

Be true in speech, and wound not others

Nor distinguish between Teachers of Truth, for God's
Truth is one and should be believed.

68. The People of the Book went wrong : the Jews in
breaking their Covenant, and slandering Mary and Jesus, and
in their usury and injustice , and the Christians in raising
Jesus the Apostle to equality with God.

God's revelation is continued in the Qur-ān, which comes
with manifest proof and a clear light to those who understand.

DEPARTURE FROM FAITH, JUSTICE, AND DUTY, AND THEIR CONSEQUENCES

S 5 69 All obligations are sacred, human or divine

In the spiritual world we owe duties to God, which must be fulfilled

But whilst we are in this world of sense, those duties are by no means isolated from what we owe to ourselves and our fellows in the world of men

We must respect the laws and customs of the Sacred Mosque and the Sacred Sanctuary

In food our laws are simple all things good and pure are lawful

We refuse not social intercourse with men and women,— people of the Book

70 God wishes us to be clean and pure, at prayer and at other times

But justice and right conduct even in the face of spite and hatred, are nearest to Piety and the love of God

In Him we put our trust

71 If men who received revelations before were false to their trust, if they broke their agreements and twisted God's Message from its aim, if they rebelled against Truth and followed their fancies, God's grace was withdrawn from them and they wandered in the wilderness

72 The jealousy of Cain against Abel, which led to the murder of innocent Abel, is the type of the jealousy between the People of the Book and their younger brethren in Islam.

Jealousy leads to envy and murder

Such crimes against individuals are often crimes against whole peoples

There are men who are ready to catch up every lie told against a just man The just man should not grieve, for that is their way

73 True justice accords with God's Law

Follow not men's selfish desires, but God's Will, which was revealed to Moses and Jesus, and now to Muhammad

Take not for friends and protectors those in whose hearts is a disease,—to whom religion is a mockery or a plaything, —who worship evil

Proclaim the Truth of God, and be not afraid

Eschew their iniquities, which were denounced by David and Jesus

But recognise with justice those who are sincere and humble, though they may be themselves not of your flock, if they witness to Truth

74 In the physical pleasures of life the crime is excess there is no merit in abstention from things that are good and lawful.

Take no rash vows, but to solemn oaths be faithful

Shun as abominations drinking and gambling and superstition of all kinds,

But be reverent to what is sacred in rites and associations

Not the same are things good and things evil

Learn to distinguish, but pry not into questions beyond your ken

Guard your own souls in truth and justice, and no harm can befall you.

75 Jesus did feed his disciples by miracle, but he claimed not divinity

He was a true servant of God, to Whom doth belong the dominion of the heavens and the earth

Glory and power are His, and His alone

GOD AND THE HEREAFTER

S 6 76 God did separate Light from Darkness, He reigns not only in heaven but also on earth, Mercy is His Law, to Him shall we all return at the end of all things

How can we then depart from truth and forge lies against Him?

It is folly to say that there is nothing beyond this our present life

77 The life of this world is but empty · what is serious is the life hereafter

The teacher of God's truth is not balked by frivolous objections or insults or persecution

The wicked will be cut off to the last remnant

God's wisdom pervades the whole of His Creation, and in His hands are the keys of the Unseen, and the secrets of all that we see

78 God's loving care doth encompass us round throughout life, and deliver us from dangers by land and sea

He is the only Protector how can we then forget Him or run after things that are mere creatures of His, and shall

perish,—while He is the Eternal God, adored by Abraham and all the prophets ?

79 The good men and true, who succeeded Abraham, received the gifts of revelation and guidance, and kept alive God's Message,

Which now is proclaimed in the Qur-ān, in which is blessing and confirmation of all that went before

In the daily pageants of Nature,—the dawn and the restful night, the sun, the moon, the stars that guide the mariner in distant seas, the rain-clouds pouring abundance, and the fruits that delight the heart of man—can ye not read Signs of God ?

No vision can comprehend Him, yet He knoweth and comprehendeth all

80 Those in obstinate rebellion against God are merely deceived and deceive each other

Leave them alone, but trust and obey God openly and in the inmost recesses of your heart

The plans of the wicked are but plans against their own souls

81 God punishes not mere shortcoming
There are degrees in good and evil deeds
God is Merciful, but His Plan is sure, and none can stand in its way

We must avoid all superstition and all excess, and humbly ask for His guidance

82 God's commands are not irrational taboos, but based on the moral law, and conformable to reason

His Way is the straight Way, of justice and truth

In unity and faith must we dedicate all our life to His service, and His alone, to Whom we shall return

REVELATION A MERCY AND GUIDANCE

S 7 83 Revelation should ease the difficulties of heart and mind, For it tells the story of man's spiritual past, and teaches the end of good and evil

Iblis fell from jealousy and arrogance, and Adam fell because he listened to his deceit

But God did grant in His Mercy gifts and guidance to men, warned them against excess, and taught them moderation and justice

84 God has forbidden the things that are evil, not those that are good, for these were created for man's enjoyment

The transgressors are those who reject God's Signs

They will have no share in the Bliss of the Hereafter

But the righteous will dwell in Peace, and the Hope that was promised will be theirs

85 Noah's warning was rejected by his generation, and they were destroyed in the Flood

Hûd was defied by his own people 'Ad, but they were swept away by a terrible blast

Their successors, the Thamûd, were puffed up with pride and injustice, but behold! an earthquake buried them for their sins after Sâlih had warned them from God

With a rain of brimstone and fire were overwhelmed the

Cities of the Plain for their unexampled lusts, against which Lot did warn them

The people of Midian were given to mischief and fraud · Shu'aib did warn them, but they heeded not, and perished in an earthquake

God's punishment is sure for wickedness and sin.

86 While the story of the prophets who preached in vain to their people pre-figures the struggles in the early careers of all apostles,

The story of Moses,—his struggles with an alien and arrogant people, his final deliverance of his people from foreign domination, and his leading them within sight of the Promised Land, in spite of the forces that resisted,—pre-figures the early struggles and eventual triumph of Muhammad the Holy Apostle of God

87 With the advent of the Holy Apostle, the light and guidance which he brought for all mankind from God superseded the earlier Law for the Jews

The good and the upright among them followed the new Light, but the rest were scattered through the earth

88 Mankind have the nature of good created within them
Yet doth God by His Signs keep up a constant reminder to men, of His holy Names

Those who err scarce realise how gradually they fall into sin.

Their respite has a term , the doom must come, and it may be on a sudden.

So humbly draw nigh to the Lord, declare His glory, and rejoice in His service

HOW WARRIORS FIGHT

S 8 89 Fight the good fight, but dispute not about the prize .
that is for God to give

Men of faith act and obey

'Tis nobler to fight for Truth than to seek worldly gain
To the pure in faith God will give the mind and the re-
sources to conquer

They but fight, with no thought of ever turning back the
victory should be ascribed to God, not men

90 Be ready to obey God's call, and to hold all else as
naught He will give you the light, turn away all evil from
you, and forgive you your sins and shortcomings

Ever keep in remembrance His mercies and grace

The godless may try to keep men from God, but they will
not thrive they will be hurled together to destruction

91 The battle of Badr brought to an issue the fight
between Truth and Unbelief

It was the Day of Differentiation

Not for spoils was it won, nor by numbers ,

But by courage and planning, union of wills, and pooling
of strength and resources,—

Above all by the help of God, Whose help is ever all-
sufficient

92 No man of heart, spirit, or constancy can ever be
cowed down by odds against him

We fight not for spoils or for captives, but for the glory
of God, and for truth and faith.

We must be kind to all, but specially regard the needs of our comrades, linked to us by ties of duty and affection

Our highest reward will be forgiveness and grace from the Giver of all

IN FACE OF HOSTILITY AND TREACHERY

93 If the Pagans repeatedly break their treaties, denounce the treaties,

But give them time either to repent or to prepare for the just punishment of their treachery

Punish the chiefs of the treacherous, and destroy them

But if one of them seeks asylum, give it let him hear the Word of God and escort him to security

Be true to the true, but fight those who are false to plighted word and taunt you for your Faith

(*Note to S 8* The little exiled community of Mecca Muslims, with their friends in Medina, had organised themselves into a God-fearing community, but were constantly in danger of being attacked by their Pagan enemies of Mecca, in alliance with some of the disaffected elements (Jews and Hypocrites) in or near Medina itself. The design of the Meccans was to gather all the resources they could, and with an overwhelming force, to crush and annihilate Muhammad and his party. To this end *Abū Sufyān* was leading a richly-laden caravan from Syria to Mecca. He called for armed aid from Mecca. The battle was fought in the plain of Badr, about 50 miles south-west of Medina. The Muslim force consisted of only about 313 men, mostly unarmed, but they were led by Muhammad, and they were fighting for their Faith. The Meccan army, well-armed and well-equipped, numbered over a thousand, and had among its leaders some of the most experienced warriors of Arabia, including *Abū Jahl*, the inveterate foe and persecutor of Islam. Against all odds the Muslims won a brilliant victory.)

No one has the right to approach the mosques of God unless he believes in God and follows God's Law, the law of righteousness

94 The enemies of Faith would fain put out God's light, but God's light will shine more glorious than ever

Wealth is for use and on trust for mankind hoard not, nor misuse it

Fight a straight fight in the cause of Right

Go forth bravely to strive and struggle, and prove yourselves worthy of God

95 The Believers do their duty, and make no excuses,— unlike the Hypocrites, who are a burden whether they join you or hold back

No help should be accepted from these last, as they are false and insincere, and have a slanderous tongue

Alms are for the poor and the needy, not for those who come in hypocrisy and mock at things solemn

But the hypocrites will be found out and receive due punishment, while the righteous will be rewarded with bliss and the good pleasure of God

96 The hardest striving and fighting are needed to combat evil and hypocrisy ,

For sin can reach a stage when the doors of forgiveness are closed.

The good must shun all evil as unclean, and gladly welcome all chance of service and sacrifice, as bringing them closer to the Presence and Mercy of God.

97 The vanguard of Faith think nothing of self-sacrifice
Their reward is God's Good Pleasure
Even those who do wrong but repent will obtain His
Mercy :

Not so those who persist in Unfaith, Hypocrisy, and
Mischief

God's grace is free and abounding for the righteous Even
if they waver or fail, He will turn to them in Mercy, if only
they repent and come back unto Him

98 To be true in word and deed is to hold our selfish
desires at bay, and follow God's Call

In this is our fullest satisfaction and reward

But our striving should include study and teaching, for the
Brethren's benefit

For God's Message increases our Faith and leads us to love
Him and trust Him, the Lord of the Throne of Glory Supreme

GOD IS GOOD

S 10 99 Men may wonder that a man like unto them should
bring a Message from God, but God's Message shines forth
through all nature and Creation

He guides the human spirit, if only man will have Faith
and put his hope in God.

Wonderful are God's relations with man, yet man is
ungrateful and runs to fancies and fanciful gods

Glory to the One true God, Who made mankind as one,
And holds alone the secrets of the Unseen in His great and
good Universal Plan

100 The good, the beautiful, and the useful in man's life
are derived from God, yet man is ungrateful

He runs after the ephemeral things of this life,

Yet they are no better than the green of the fields, that lasts
for a season ere it perish !

God's call is to an eternal Home of Peace

Will ye not answer it ?

Know ye not that it is He Who sustains and cherishes ?

No partner has He

And He speaks to His creatures and guides them through
His wonderful Book unmatched

101 Men but wrong their own souls in shutting out the
Truth of God

To Him will be their return

They have been warned at all times and among all peoples
by chosen Apostles of God, whom they have flouted

The Day will come when they will see the majesty, the
glory, the goodness, and the justice of God

But they invent fancies and falsehoods

Let not their blasphemies and falsehoods grieve the men of
God for falsehoods and false ones will never prosper

102 God works in His world—in mercy for His servants,
and in just punishment for those who do wrong

Thus was it in Noah's story, for he worked unselfishly for
his people, though rejected of them

So was it with Moses he preached to Pharaoh and the
Egyptians, but most of them preferred falsehood and pride
to the Truth of God, and perished

Even Pharaoh's confession of God at the last was too late, as his life had been spent in luxury, pride, and oppression.

103 God's purpose of Mercy and Forgiveness was shown in the mission of Jonah,

When Nineveh was pardoned on repentance, and given a new lease of life

We must be patient and strive with constancy and perseverance,

For all suffering and sorrow as well as all bounties proceed from God,

Whose plan is righteous and for the good of His creatures

MAN IS UNGRATEFUL

S 11 104 God's Revelation teaches the Truth it warns against wrong and gives glad tidings to the righteous

Ungrateful man folds up his heart and fails to see how all Nature points to God and to the Hereafter

He but seeks petty issues, forgetting the Cause of Causes

Not all the wisdom of man can produce aught like the Message which comes from God, as the Light that leads and the Mercy that forgives.

Who then but will humble himself before God, seeking His light and His voice ?

105. Noah walked righteously and humbly as in the sight of God

With unselfish love for his people he warned them and taught them

But they did flout and reject his Message with scorn and insults

God gave him directions to build an Ark against the impending Flood which was to purify the world from Sin and Unrighteousness

In it were saved Noah and those who believed

So were promised salvation and God's Peace and Blessings to the Righteous evermore !

106 Awful were the fates of the 'Ad and the Thamûd, two mighty peoples of ancient Arabia

They rejected God and His Message and went on in their evil ways,—

The 'Ad in their superstitions and arrogance, and the Thamûd in their entrenched selfishness, denying to others the gifts of God's spacious earth !

How swiftly were they wiped out, as if they had never been ?

But wrong can never stand !

107 When the angels, on a mission to Sodom and Gomorrah, Cities of the Plain, passed by Abraham,

He entertained them and received from them the Good News of the line of Prophets to spring from his loins

He tried, in his goodness of heart, to intercede for the wicked Cities, but they were steeped in sin and past all hope of repentance

Lot preached to them, but they flouted him and went to their fate, as also did Midian

The People of Shu'aib destroyed their commerce by fraudulent dealings and love of brute force

Marvellous are God's Mercies, and strange are the ways
of ungrateful man !

108 How the arrogant Pharaoh misled his people in
resisting God's Message through Moses !

Thus did they ruin themselves !

It was they who wronged themselves for God is ever
kind and His punishments are just

All men will be brought to His Judgment-seat, and the
good will be rewarded with bliss, as the evil will be consigned
to misery.

Eschew evil ; stand firm in righteousness , be not im-
mersed in the lusts of this world

Learn from the stories of the past, and seek the Lord's
Mercy . trust Him and serve and praise Him for ever !

THE STORY OF JOSEPH

S 12. 109 Life and Wisdom are explained by Signs, Symbols,
Parables, and moving Stories, in the Holy Qur-ān.

A beautiful story is that of Joseph, the best-beloved son
of Jacob

His future greatness was pre-figured in a vision, but his
brothers were filled with envy and hate

They plotted to get rid of him and threw him down into
a well

Some merchants found him, bound for Egypt
The brothers sold him into slavery for a few silver coins,—

Him the noblest man of his age, marked out by God for a
destiny of greatness, righteousness, and benevolence.

110 Joseph was bought by a man high at Court in Egypt,

Who asked his wife (Zulaikhā) to treat him with honour, with a view to his adoption as a son

But she burnt with passion of earthly love for him

When Joseph refused to yield to her solicitations, there was trouble and scandal, and Joseph was imprisoned

Here were shown his greatness, and kindness, and wisdom.

The King's cup-bearer came in disgrace to prison

Joseph instructed him and others in the eternal Gospel of Unity

When released and restored to favour, the cup-bearer forgot Joseph—for a time,—

Until it pleased God to put into Joseph's hands the keys of the prosperity of Egypt and the world

111 The king of Egypt saw a vision which none of his grandees could explain

The cup-bearer referred to Joseph, who was sent for by the king

But Joseph insisted that the voice of scandal, which had pointed to him, should be declared in public to be false

After Zulaikhā had paid a splendid ungrudging tribute to his truth and righteousness, he came, and was invested with supreme power by the king

In times of plenty he organised great reserves to meet the needs of famine

When wide-spread famine at last prevailed, his brothers came from Canaan in search of corn

He treated them kindly and got them to bring his youngest brother Benjamin but they knew not he was Joseph.

112 When the brothers went back without Benjamin,
Jacob was overwhelmed with grief,

But he bore his affliction with patience and faith in God.

He refused to be comforted and sent his sons back, to
Egypt

At last Joseph revealed himself, forgave them, and sent his
shirt by them to Jacob, to tell him the good news that Joseph
lived and did great work in Egypt,

And had sent for his whole family to come and rejoice
and live in the land of Egypt, and be a blessing to all.

113 Jacob was comforted with the news

The whole family moved to Egypt, where Joseph received
them with honour

He forgave his brothers, thanked and praised God, and
lived and died a righteous man

So the story shows how the Plan of God doth work without
fail

It defeats the wiles of the wicked, turns evil to good, and
ever leads those who are true to beatitudes undreamt of

So did it happen in Mustafā's life

Will man not learn to rely on God as the only Reality,
turning away from all that is fleeting or untrue?

GOD'S REVELATION HOW IT WORKS

S 13. 114. God's Truth comes to man in revelation and in
nature

How noble are His works! How sublime His govern-
ment of the world! They all declare forth His glory!

Yet man must strangely resist Faith, and ask to see the Signs of His power rather than the Signs of His Mercy !

Doth not His knowledge search through the most hidden things ?

Are not Lightning and Thunder the Signs of His Might as well as of His Mercy ?

He alone is worthy of praise, and His Truth will stand when all vanities pass away like scum on the torrent of Time.

115 The seeing and the blind are not alike nor are those blessed with Faith and those without

The former seek God, and attain peace and blessedness in their hearts, and a final Home of rest

The latter are in a state of Curse, and their End is terrible

If God in His wisdom postpones retribution, it is for a time

His promise never fails it will come to pass in His own good time

In all things it is for Him to command

116 The mockery of God's apostles is an old game of the world

But God's Truth will come to its own in good time

The End of the righteous is their Home of Bliss, and they rejoice in the revelations they receive

The Messengers of God take their due share in the life of the world , they win through by God's grace against all the plots of the world

Their witness is from God, through His revelation.

S 14. 117 Revelation leads mankind from the depths of darkness into light.

It comes to every age and nation in its own language

So was it before, so will it be always

The apostles were doubted, insulted, threatened, and persecuted, but their trust was sure in God.

It is Evil that will be wiped out

God's Truth is as a goodly tree, firmly established on its roots, stretching its branches high and wide, and bearing good fruit at all times.

118 But the evil not only choose evil for themselves but mislead others to perdition

The godly should learn from the Signs of God all around them, and be on their guard against all that is false

So Abraham prayed not only for his posterity, but for all For he foresaw the universality of God's Message in Islam That leads to the mystic doctrine of Oneness,

Which will be seen in its fulness on the Great Day when a new Earth and a new Heaven will proclaim the end of Evil and the adjustment of all this life's accounts

S 15 119 God's Truth makes all things clear, and He will guard it.

But His Signs are not for those who mock

Who fails to see the majesty, beauty, order, and harmony blazoned in His Creation,

And His goodness to all His creatures, in the heavens and on earth?

With Him are the sources of all things, and He doth freely give his gifts in due measure.

He holds The keys of Life and Death, and He will remain
when all else passes away

120 Man's origin was from dust, lowly,
But his rank was raised above that of other creatures because
God breathed into him His spirit

Jealousy and arrogance caused the fall of Iblis, the Power
of Evil

But no power has Evil o'er those sincere souls who worship
God and seek His Way

Many are the gates of Evil, but Peace and dignified joy
will be the goal of those whom the Grace of God has made
His own

121 God's Grace and Mercy are always first, but His
Justice and Wrath will seize those who defy His Law

Even when the unspeakable crimes of the Cities of the
Plain made their destruction inevitable, God's message of
Mercy to mankind was sent to Abraham and of safety to
Lot

The last remnants of Sin will be cut off, and the Signs and
Tokens thereof are plain for all to see

The proud Companions of the Wood and the builders
of Rocky Fortresses were all swept away because of their
sins.

122 But God's Creation doth bear witness to God's Design
and Mercy

His Plan is sure.

His gift of the glorious Qur-ân is more than any worldly
goods can be.

So, while we denounce Sin openly, let us be gentle and kind,
and adore and serve our Lord all our lives

S 16. 123 God's Command must inevitably come to pass
But all His Creation proclaims His glory, and leads to His
Truth

In all things has He furnished man with favours innumerable,
to lead and guide him and bring him to Himself

Why then does man refuse the Truth, except for arrogance ?

Why does he run after false gods, thus acting against his
own lights and misleading others less blest in knowledge ?

124 In all ages wicked men tried to plot against God's
Way, but they never succeeded, and were covered with shame
in ways unexpected

The righteous see good in God's Word, and their goal is
the Good

Great Teachers were sent to all nations, to warn against
Evil and guide to the Right

The penalty for evil comes in many unexpected ways, for
Evil is against Nature

And all Nature proclaims God's Glory and humbly serves
Him, the Lord Supreme

125 There is but One God, He Who gives all blessings to
man and other creatures

His greatest gift is that He reveals Himself

But in many tangible ways he cares for man and provides
for his growth and sustenance

In rain, in milk, in fruits and honey, and in Nature and the

life of man, with his opportunities of social, moral, and spiritual growth, are Signs for those who understand

Why then does man show ingratitude by going after false gods and forgetting God ?

126 God's apostles, if rejected, will be witnesses against those who reject God's Truth !

And all false gods will disappear

A life of justice and righteousness is enjoined by God, and the strictest fidelity, in intent and action

For God will judge us by our faith and deeds, and no evil shall have power over those who believe and put their trust in God their Lord

127 God's Truth may come in stages, but it gives strength, guidance, and glad tidings, and should be held fast when once received

Be not like those who get puffed up with pride in worldly good, and scorn the Truth

Enjoy the good things of life, but render thanks to God and obey His Law

Be true in faith, and proclaim His Word with gentle, patient wisdom

For God is with those who live in self-restraint a pure, and righteous life

RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH INDIVIDUAL LIFE

S 17 128 It is the privilege of the men of God to see the sublimest mysteries of the spiritual world and instruct men in Righteousness ,

They warn and shield men against Evil.

But nothing can lessen each soul's personal responsibility
for its own deeds

It carries its fate round its own neck.

God's gifts are for all, but not all receive the same gifts,
nor are all gifts of equal dignity or excellence

129 To be worthy of the service of the One True God,
we must love and serve His Creatures

The parents who cherished us in childhood deserve our
humble reverence and service

Next come the rights of kinsmen, those in want, and way-
faring strangers

To each according to his need, not in spendthrift show
And gentleness is needed to those whom we cannot help
God will provide He has made life sacred and pure

Fulfil your trusts for orphans and deal with all in strictest
probity

Pry not into evil from curiosity, and shun insolence . for
God hates evil,—

The One, the Good, the Universal Lord !

130 There is none like unto God Exalted beyond
measure is He

All Creation declares His glory

His revelation is Truth, but is beyond comprehension to
those who believe not in the Hereafter.

Those who serve Him should beware lest words unseemly
should escape them, whether to friend or foe.

Avoid dissensions, and know that God's Wrath when
kindled is a terrible thing ,

But we rejoice that He forbears and forgives.

131 Arrogance, jealousy, spite, and hatred were the cause of the fall of Iblis

Man was given pre-eminence above much of God's Creation, and owes higher responsibilities

He should give thanks for God's mercies, and remember the Day of Account

Not all the scheming of Evil will deflect God's righteous Plan to protect His chosen ones

They should pray without ceasing, and seek His true Guidance,

For Truth will last, but Falsehood will perish

132 Who can define the Spirit of Inspiration ?

Its gift is the highest of God's Mercies to man

The Qur-ān is divine, and no carpings can affect its greatness or the greatness of the Messenger who brought it to men

Those who reject it will be called to account on the Day of Judgment

Let not Pride and Ignorance rush, like Pharaoh, to the Punishment of the Hereafter

The Qur-ān as revealed by stages teaches the Truth .

Learn it and chant it, and praise the Beautiful Names of God for ever !

S. 18 133 The Book of Revelation gives straight directions to make our lives straight,—

To warn us against Evil and guide us to the Good everlasting

Teach the Truth, but fret not about men rejecting it

The Parable of the Companions of the Cave shows how God works wonders beyond our fathoming :

How Faith is a sure refuge in ways we know not ,
How Time itself works God's Plan before we know how
it passes ,

How He can give us rest, and raise us back to life against
all odds ,

And how futile it is to engage in controversies about
matters we know not

134 True knowledge is with God alone

We are not to dispute on matters of conjecture, but to rely
on the Truth that comes from God

As in the Parable, the man who piles up wealth and is
puffed up with this world's goods, despising those otherwise
endowed, will come to an evil end, for his hopes were not
built on God

135 The life of this world is ephemeral, and its gains will
not last

Good Deeds are the best of possessions in God's sight
All will be levelled up on the Day of Judgment, and a new
Order created on the basis of Truth, according to the Book
of Deeds.

Pride is the root of Evil, rebellion, and wrong

Who will choose evil ones in preference to God ?

Let us accept Truth, for though Falsehood may flourish
for a time, it must perish in the end

136 Moses was up against mysteries which he wanted to
explore

He searched out a man endued with knowledge derived
from the divine springs from which flow the paradoxes of
life.

He is shown three such paradoxes and how human impatience is inconsistent with their true understanding

The highest knowledge comes not except by divine gift,

And a constant, patient striving, with Faith, to apprehend something of the purpose of the All-wise God

137 Three episodes in the life of a great King, Zul-qarnain, illustrate how power and opportunities should be used in the service of God

He punished the guilty indeed, but was kind to the righteous,

He left primitive people their freedom of life,

And he protected industrious people from grasping neighbours

But he relied upon God, and made them remember the Day of Judgment,

When all will see the Truth and receive the Punishments and Rewards earned in their present life

S 19 138 Men of God show their qualities in their private relationships as much as in their public ministry

Zakariyā was anxious, in a world of unrighteousness, to find a successor to continue his godly errand

He was given a son, Yahyā, who heralded Jesus, and lived a life of wisdom, gentle love, and purity

139 Next comes the story of Jesus and his mother Mary
She gave birth, as a virgin, to Jesus, but her people slandered and abused her as a disgrace to her lineage

Her son did defend her and was kind to her

He was a servant of God, a true Prophet, blessed in the gifts of Prayer and Charity, but no more than a man

To call him the son of God is to derogate from God's Majesty, for God is High above all His Creatures, the Judge of the Last Day

140 Abraham pleaded with loving earnestness with his father to accept the truth of God

He was turned out, but he retained His gentleness and was blessed

Moses asked for the aid of his brother Aaron and was true to his people

Ismā'il was loyal to his father and his God, and was a willing and accepted sacrifice to God

141 Why should man disbelieve in the Hereafter ?

We all must pass through the fire of temptation, but God Most Gracious will save us if we accept Him and do right

Sin may have its respite, but must run to its own destruction

We must not dishonour God by holding false and monstrous ideas of Him

Glory to Him that He cares for all His creatures !

S. 20 142 God's revelation is not an occasion for man's distress
It is a Message to show that God All-Knowing sits on the throne of Mercy and guides all affairs

There is no god but He ; to Him belong all the most beautiful Names.

143 The story of how Moses was chosen and told of his mission, has a high mystic meaning.

He was true to his family and solicitous for their welfare

Encamped in the desert, he saw a fire far off
Approaching, he found it was holy ground
God did reveal Himself to him, so that he saw life in things
lifeless, and light in his glorified Hand, that shone white with
light divine

Armed with these Signs he was told to go forth on his
mission

But he thought of his brother Aaron, and prayed that
God might join him in his mission, and his prayer was
granted

144 From his birth was Moses prepared for his task.
His mother received guidance, so that God's purpose might
be fulfilled

Moses was brought up in Pharaoh's palace and trained in
all the learning of Egypt

Yet he drank the love of his people in his mother's milk
Adventures and trials he had, including his stay with the
Midianites—until he was called to his double mission

To preach to Pharaoh and the Egyptians, and to free his
own people

So he and Aaron went to Pharaoh, who rejected God and
His Signs, but appointed a trial of strength between his
magicians and Moses

Moses won, and the Truth of God was accepted by some
Egyptians, but not by Pharaoh

145 The people of Israel were rescued from bondage and
led on their way to the Promised Land

God's Grace gave them light and guidance, but they re-
belled under the leadership of one called the Sāmīrī

He melted the gold of their jewels and made an idol—a calf—for their worship—a thing without life or power

Moses destroyed the idol, and cursed the man who led the people astray

146 Such is the lure of Evil,

But high and low will be levelled on the Day of Judgment, before the Eternal, the Gracious, the King, the Truth, who sends the Qur-ān to teach and to warn

Will man remember how Adam's arch-enemy, Satan, caused his fall, and will he yet be blind to the Signs of God?

Nay,—but let not Evil make you impatient

The Prize of the Hereafter is better than aught of the glitter of this life.

Wait in Faith, and the End will show the triumph of Truth, Goodness, and Righteousness

S 21 147 Men may lightly treat God's Signs as jests, but the Judgment must come inevitably

His Message is true, and delivered by God's Apostle, as from man to men

Truth must triumph, and all false gods and false worship must come to naught

For God is One, and His Truth has been one throughout the ages

148 Look at God's Creation—contemplate its unity of Design and benevolence of Purpose

Death must come to all, but life and faith are not objects of ridicule.

Truth will outlast all mockery.

'Tis God who calls, because He cares for you, and on His Judgment-Seat will weigh each act, each thought, each motive, great or small, with perfect justice

Come, ye all, reject not His blessed Message

149 The great exemplars of virtue conquered Evil, each according to his circumstances

Abraham stood staunch in the fire of persecution, unhurt,
Lot was bold in reproving abominations,
Noah survived the Flood by his faith, in a world of
Unbelief,

David sought justice, and sang God's praises,
Solomon by wisdom subdued the refractory,
Job was patient in suffering, Ismā'il, Idrīs, and Zul-kifl
were true in constancy amid temptation,
Jonah turned to God after a short misunderstanding,
Zakariyā and his family were exemplars of devoutness,
and Mary of chastity

All men and women of God form one united Brotherhood.

150 No good deed is fruitless

Work while yet there's time for with Judgment the door
will be closed to repentance

No false gods of fancy can help
The Righteous will have no fear,
For them the angelic greetings will truly open a new world,
which they will inherit.

This was God's Message of old, and the same is God's
Message renewed :

For God is one, and so is His Message proclaimed for all,
freely and in loving Truth.

RITES AND SYMBOLS FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

S 22. 151 Will not mankind take warning from the dreadful consequences of Evil clearly proclaimed to them ?

Will they dispute about God and the Life of the Future ?

They have only to look around and within them, and they will see vestiges of the Plan and Purpose of God

Let them not halt between Good and Evil God's Message as well as His Messenger must win against all obstacles

Only the evil will be brought to shame and agony

The good—whose speech is pure and conduct worthy of praise—will have a meed of refinement, beauty, and bliss

152 For our spiritual growth are provided symbols and means of expression in our ordinary lives

Such is the Pilgrimage, meant to gather men and women from far and near to share in sacrifice, and prayer and praise, in an age-old centre of worship

The sacrifices, too, are symbols of Piety of Heart, a longing to share with fellow-men in the bounties of God

In the Fight for Truth is tested our purity of motive, unselfishness of aim, and devotion to Right at the cost of self

Fearless must we fight , for Truth has often been flouted, but must finally win

153. The power of Evil is in insidious suggestions

They are only a trial to those whose hearts are inclined to evil

But Truth doth shine the nobler for the Believers, by the grace and guidance of God

Martyrs who give their all in the cause of God will find a provision ample and eternal

The finest and subtlest mysteries are but proofs of the goodness of God

Dispute not about rites and ceremonies follow the Straight Way

Seek for worship the Only True God, and strive in His service,

That ye may be witnesses among men to God's Truth, as the Apostle is a witness to you

S 23 154 Faith leads to humility, avoidance of vanity in word and deed, charity, continence, faithful observance of trusts and covenants, and devout approach to God—surest steps to Bliss

Man carries in himself proofs of God's Providence ,
The same story is told if he looks at nature around him ,
And the long line of Teachers sent by God shows God's special care of humanity

What though they were rejected and scorned, maligned and persecuted ?

God's Truth won through, as it always will

155 The Brotherhood of Truth is one in all ages it is the narrow men who create sects

Let them not think that the goods of this world can shield them from evil or its consequences

God's Truth and His Messenger can be known to all .

For He in His Mercy has given us faculties and judgment, if we would but use them.

The Message is not new . all Creation proclaims it High above all is the Lord of Glory Supreme !

156 Let us eschew evil, but not pay back evil in its own coin, however great the temptation

No chance will there be to retrieve our conduct, once death cuts us off

Then we shall only have to wait for Judgment

None can miss that Barrier :

Our deeds will be weighed, and happy those whose good weighs more in the scale than ill

Only Faith and Goodness will prevail in the end

So glory to the Lord of the Throne exalted, of Mercy and Honour !

S 24 157 Chastity is a virtue, for men and women, whether joined in marriage, or single or widowed

The punishment for offences in such matters should be public

No less grave is the launching of false charges or rumours against the fair reputation of women, or the spreading of such slanders, or the facile belief in them

Evil is ever spreading its net

Good men and women should ever be on their guard, and pray for God's grace and mercy

158 Privacy in the home is a nurse of virtue respect it with dignity

Guard your eyes and thoughts with rules of modesty in dress and manners

And learn from these to keep your spiritual gaze from straying to any but God.

True marriage should teach us chastity and purity,
And such are the virtues which lead us to the Light sublime
which illuminates the world

159 God is the Light of the heavens and the earth
High above our petty evanescent lives, He illuminates our
souls with means that reach our inmost being

Universal is His light, so pure and so intense that grosser
beings need a veil to take His rays

His elect are e'er absorbed in prayer and praise and deeds
of love,

Unlike the children of Darkness, struggling in depths pro-
found of vanities false

All Nature sings to the glory of God,

And men of fraud and hypocrisy are but rebels in the
Kingdom of God

160 For a self-respecting life on earth, respect for others'
privacy is most essential, in the home and abroad

But superstitions are not meet in intercourse amongst kin
or true friends

In public council never fail to observe the most punctilious
form and order

Your self-respect demands that ye should give your Leader
sincere respect and all obedience

Ye may not know but God doth know the inwardness of
things both great and small

S 25 161 Among the highest and greatest of the gifts of God
is His Revelation,

Which is the Criterion by which we may judge between
right and wrong—

Between false and true worship, between the Message that comes from God and the forgeries of men, between the Real in our eternal Future and the Fancies by which we are misled

The apostles of God come as men to live among men and guide them

162 Woe to the misbelievers who arrogantly demand to see God, yet reject His Signs !

The Judgment will come, and then they will see, too late, how evil casts nothing but treacherous snares for man

Slowly comes God's Revelation, in ways most conducive to man's enlightenment

Men in their folly reject the most obvious Signs of God
Let them mock ! Soon will they know !

Alas ! men ruled by self-impulse are worse than brute beasts to guide or control !

163 But the Signs of God are everywhere in creation

The Sun and the Shadow, the Day and the Night, the Wind and the Rain,—all things in nature are symbols, and point to the Law Divine, and the destiny, good or ill, of man

Will he not learn and put his trust in Him, the Merciful ?

His true servants ever adore him in humility and fear of wrong,

In faith and just moderation in life,

In respect for duties owed to God and men and self,

In avoidance of all that is false or futile,

In strict and grateful attention to God's Message,

And in the wish to put themselves and their families in the van of those who love and honour God.

PROPHETS, AND THE REACTIONS OF THEIR COMMUNITIES TO THEM

§ 26 164 God's plan works unceasingly His Light shines none the less brightly, because some reject it or mock at it

Moses was freed from all fear when God gave him His Signs and sent him to Pharaoh

He boldly proclaimed the Message, and won the wise ones of Egypt

The rejecters, with Pharaoh, perished, and their heritage passed to worthier hands

165 Abraham patiently argued with his people about God's Truth ,

Prayed for wisdom and righteousness, for himself, his father, and future generations , and taught Truth about the Hereafter

Noah preached to a world of Unfaith, and would not reject the humble and lowly

His arrogant rejecters were brought low in him and his following were vindicated God's righteous Purpose and Mercy

166 The 'Ad were addicted to arrogance , they exulted in material strength and possessions, and had no faith but in force They were brought low, as were the Thamûd, who gave way to extravagance, and were guilty of sacrilege in destroying a symbol of justice and fair-dealing

Their repentance was too late they were blotted out of the earth for the mischief they had made

167 The task of Lot was a hard one his mission was to people addicted to crimes abominable

His reasoning with them was in vain it only excited their wrath

They threatened to cast him out, but were themselves overwhelmed in disaster

Shu'aib had to rebuke fraud and commercial dishonesty he met only ridicule, but the just and fair dealing he preached was vindicated in the end

168 Thus the Truth of God must win against folly and falsehood

The Spirit of Inspiration and faith brought down the Qur-ān to the mind of the holy Prophet,

That he might teach in noble Arabic speech, and through it reach the world

If obstinate rebels do resist the Message, their day is brief

With humble, gentle kindness it must make its way to all, nearest and farthest

It is not like the vain words of poets false wandering without a goal it is Truth, that fills the heart which trusts in God

S 27 169 Revelation shows us a glimpse of the spiritual world, guides us in this life, and gives us the Hope of eternal Bliss in the Hereafter

It works a complete transformation in us,

As it did with Moses when he saw the mystic Fire and was given the Signs with which to reclaim a people lost in superstition and sin, and proud of sin

170 No less were David and Solomon versed in knowledge and mystic wisdom

Even Solomon could appreciate the wisdom of the humble Ant.

He used all his power and resources in extending the Kingdom of God

In wonderful ways did He lead the Queen of Sheba to the Light of the Faith of Unity, and confirmed her in pure worship, the worship of the Lord of the Worlds

171 In Şâlih's pure preaching the evil Thamûd found omens of ill to themselves

In secret they plotted to take his life, and like cowards they made a league to cover their crime with lies

Lo ! on themselves recoiled the plot they perished in utter ruin

The men admonished by Lot were false to themselves · they insulted the nature given them by God, and mocked the Message of Purity

Lo ! they were buried in a shower of brimstone !

172 God's goodness and mercy are manifest through all nature and in the heart and conscience of man

He alone knows all our knowledge can at best be partial

Yet we can travel through space and time and see how Evil never prospered

God teaches us good, but how can we see if we make ourselves blind ?

At the end of all things shall we know how small is our state, but for God's Grace

Let us bow to His Will and accept His true guidance
Let us praise Him and trust Him—now and for ever !

28 173 God's Apostles are men, and win through good life by God's Grace and their Faith

So Moses was saved from the Tyrant's wrath in infancy,
And reared in the Tyrant's own den, but gently in a mother's
love

In youth was he endowed with wisdom and knowledge,
strength and the will to do right

In sorrow or misfortune he trusted in God and opened his
heart to Him

In self-imposed exile he won love by his chivalry and
confidence by Truth

In his mission he triumphed over arrogant wrong by his
meekness, patience, and Faith

So good follows good, and Evil must fall, cursed, loathed,
disgraced, and despised

174 As with Moses, so with the Apostle Muhammad :
Revelation was given to him, by which he knew and under-
stood, and led men, and was kind

He was a Mercy to men, sent by God, to warn those in sin,
and, by precept and example, to bring the Light to their very
doors

Those who had spiritual eyes rejoiced, and walked in God's
ancient Way, now reopened,

Valuing the things of the Spirit as God's own gifts, to be
their possession for ever !

175 Material good is nothing compared to the spiritual
In the Hereafter no plea " that others misled " will avail
Each soul must answer for itself, whether it honoured God
alone or worshipped something else, and whether it received
or rejected the Teachers sent by God

The Wisdom and Plan of God are beyond all praise

All mercy and truth proceed from Him, and there is no other—none—besides Him

176 Men puffed up with wealth, like Qārūn, are not pleasing to God

For wealth is for service, not for hoarding or show

In the midst of his pride was Qārūn swallowed up in the earth, and the earth knew him no more !

It is the righteous that attain a happy End

Let nothing keep your eyes back from that End

Then, and only then, shall ye reach the only Reality, the glorious Reality, which is God, Who endureth for ever !

29 177 Faith must be tested in the conflicts of practical life, but Good can never be submerged

On the contrary God will wash off all stains from those who strive, and admit them to the Fellowship of the Righteous

Not so the hypocrites and those who reject Faith

Their hearts are diseased, and they will not accept the right though a Noah preached to them for a thousand years, or an Abraham reasoned with them on God's most wonderful Providence

But the true will ever search out the Truth, and Truth will always prevail

178 Worldly power cannot through sin defy the right, as was proved in the ministry of Lot ,

Nor can Intelligence misused stand in the place of God's Light ,

Nor can boastful insolence do aught but dig its own grave

The strength and skill, the beauty and power, of this world's life are no more than a Spider's Web,

Flimsy before the force of the eternal verities that flow from God Supreme !

179 Proclaim the Message of God, and pray to Him for purity and guidance

God's Revelation carries its own proofs and is recognised by men of wisdom

Its rejecters but lose their own chances of profiting by the Truth, and attaining the Paths that lead to God's own gracious Presence !

THE FINAL END OF THINGS

S 30 180 Great Empires rise and fall, conquer and are conquered, as happened to Rome and Persia

But the true Decision is with God, Who will make the righteous rejoice

Men may see but the outward crust of things, but in truth the End of things is all-in-all

In His own good time He will separate good from evil : Praise and glory to Him for ever !

181 God's Signs are many, and so are His Mysteries yet each does point to His Unity, Goodness, Power, and Mercy
There is none like unto Him.

His teaching is one, and men that split up His standard Religion are but following their own lusts.

Ungrateful are they to give part-worship to others, when all worship and praise and glory are due to Him and Him alone, in Whom we have our life and being !

182 The result of Evil is Evil

So mischief spreads, but God will restore the balance in the End

He did create all things pure, and will purge and purify, as He does the physical world with Winds

Destruction awaits those that break His Harmony and Law
it will come when least expected

Let the righteous wait and endure with constancy,

For Evil is shaky, with no faith in itself and no roots, and is doomed to perish utterly

31 183 What is the Book of Wisdom ?

It is a Guide and a Mercy to men, and teaches them how to attain Bliss

God's Mercies are infinite how can men deny them ?

Luqmān the Wise taught grateful worship of the One True God, and the service of men, beginning with Parents

Every good deed is known to 'God and is brought to account.

So walk in the Golden Mean, and serve Him with constancy and firmness of purpose

184 True Wisdom sees God's boundless Bounties to man, and how all nature is made to serve man's ends

It is due from us to know our place, discern the limits of our knowledge, and see how far above us is God's Wisdom, and His Law.

Let us not deceive ourselves
The end of all things will come, but the When and the
How are known to God alone, to Whom be all Praise !

S 32 185 How can Unbelievers realise the Mystery of Revelation ?

They do not even see the marvel and Mystery of Time and
God's Creation, and how they were themselves Created !

If they could but see how the End will shape itself,—how
the Good will be sorted out from Evil !

The two are not equal in Goal

Clear are the Signs and the Revelation of God—in nature,
history, and the Message of His living Prophets

If they learn not now, alas ! it will be too late when Time's
wings are furled

**RELIGION INCLUDES THE ORDERING OF
SOCIAL AND COLLECTIVE LIFE**

S 33 186 The issue of all things depends on God alone we
must put our trust on Him as the Guardian of all affairs

He loves truth in all things, both great and small call
things by their right names

If false relationships by custom or superstition do harm to
men or women, shun them

The spiritual Guide is more than Father the ladies of
his household are Mothers to the Believers—in rank, dignity,
and duty

The Guide will have to give an account, in the Hereafter,
of how the Truth was received which he was charged to
proclaim to men

187 When the formidable forces of a whole Confederacy bent on destroying Islam burst upon Medina, it was God's grace that saved the Muslims

The enemies and the Hypocrites did their best to defeat the purpose of God, but they were foiled

In the Apostle was found the ideal Leader for the men of God,

Who became heirs to the heritage misused by enemies to Faith and the Laws of God

188 The Prophet's household is not for worldly ends, his consorts have a place and dignity beyond ordinary women

They must recite and proclaim the Signs of God

For women have spiritual virtues and duties like unto men

God decrees no unhappy wedlock fear not to dissolve such and provide what is right and fitting for the service of God

High is the Prophet's position, and he must order his household as best befits his work and duties

God doth watch all things

189 Believers should cultivate refined respect in social and spiritual life -

As the Mothers of the Faithful have to uphold their dignity, so should all women protect their honour and uphold their dignity

The Hour will come when all Evil will be punished

Fear God, and always speak the word that leads to Right.

Arduous is the Quest of Mankind's high and noble Destiny,—beyond the reach of other creatures

Let man but strive in Faith, and fulfil God's Trust,—by the grace and mercy of God.

FEATURES OF THE SPIRITUAL WORLD

S 34 190 God's Mercy and Power endure for ever man should understand and not resist God's Revelation

Human wisdom and Power, as given to David, were only for establishing Righteousness

Human glory, like Solomon's, rested on slender foundations

Sabā but enjoyed her fair and prosperous state as long as she obeyed the Law of God, but perished for unrighteousness

Learn, then, that the Mercy and Power, Wisdom and Justice, of God are beyond all comparison

Do Right and prepare for the Final Day

191 Unfaith has no stable foundations to rest on misleaders and misled will all be responsible for their deeds

True values are not to be judged by the seeming good of this Life

True Good will come to its own in the End, however derided and scorned in the period of Trial

Revelation and the Mission of the men of God will stand every test

God's Truth will endure, while falsehood will perish, and its votaries find the door of Repentance closed in the End

S 35 192 God is the source of all things all Power, Wisdom, Beauty, and Truth flow from Him

It is Evil that deceives and plots in the dark.

All knowledge is with God.

The things that are good and pure and true are not as the things that are evil, deceitful, and false

God is free of all needs it is we that need Him let us seek His love and live

His Message will save us from wrong, while dark is the fate of those who reject Him

Praise and glory to Him, the Cherisher of all !

193 Man can see by his own experience what infinite shades and grades of colour there are in nature

So are there grades in the spiritual world

The Good and the True understand God, Who knows and watches over all His creatures

The Good will reach Eternal Bliss, while the Evil will find no helper

Arrogance and plotting will be the undoing of Evil its doom is sure, if it fails to profit by the respite granted by the All-Merciful God

36 194 The wisdom of Revelation—the Qur-ān received through the holy Prophet—is a guide to the Straight Path, and a warning against the terrible state in which the yokes of Sin enslave us

The righteous receive it with joy, for they believe in the Hereafter

Behold, there was once a City, to which came two righteous men with the Gospel of Truth, but they were rejected and persecuted they were joined by a third

But the City refused to believe or to turn from iniquity.

Only one man was found in its outskirts, to bear witness to Truth, Faith, and Righteousness, and he did suffer martyrdom

He attained Peace, but mourned for his people, in that they shut the gates of Salvation and God's Mercy on themselves.

Alas for man's short-sighted folly in defying the Grace that would shield and deliver him !

195 Are there not Signs enough around you to bear witness to God, and His saving Grace ?

The earth dies and revives there are mysteries of Life and Sex, of Light and the Stars and Planets in heaven, that follow their orbits by Law and in harmony !

There are the ships and the modes of transport by which man can conquer the forces around him with God-given Gifts !

Learn the Law of Goodness from them and believe in the Hereafter it will come when least expected Be prepared for God !

196 When the Day comes, men will be taken aback
The judgment-seat will be established.

Blessed will be those who attain Salvation

Their Joy, Satisfaction, and Peace will be crowned with nearness to their Lord !

Alas for the Sinful, who deliberately followed Evil . their own nature and actions will speak against them

They will face the realities of Punishment !

Both Revelation and Nature are eloquent in instructing man for his own good in the Hereafter, which will come as a certainty.

Praise and Glory to God !

S 37. 197 God is One, the Source and Centre of all affairs,
And we must work, in discipline, harmony, and unity to
put down Evil

The Hereafter is sure, when personal responsibility will be
enforced

For the true and sincere servants of God, there will be the
highest Bliss, unmixed and everlasting

For those who defy God's Law there will be the deepest
enduring Misery

Which will men choose ?

198 The Prophets of God formed a series that worked in
God's service to instruct their fellow-men

In case of distress God helped and delivered them

Men did flout and persecute them, but they carried out
their mission with constancy, and God's Purpose always
won, to the destruction of Evil

So was it in the story of Noah and the Flood, of Abraham
the True, of Ismā'il ready for self-sacrifice, of Isaac the right-
eous, of Moses and Aaron, of Elias and Lot

All men of Faith, who receive the blessings of posterity, and
Peace and Salutation from God Most Gracious

199 So was it also with Jonah, he had his trials, but God
had mercy on him, and his mission was successful

How can men ascribe to God qualities and relations derog-
atory to His nature ? High is He above all creatures

The ranks of angels and apostles stand firm in His service.
Evil is sure to be overcome

So Praise and Glory to God, the Lord of Honour and
Power, and Peace to His Apostles !

S 38 200 Self-glory and Separatism, these are among the roots of Evil, also Envy and Suspicion

Not all the combinations of Evil can for a moment reverse God's Purpose or His Justice

David, endowed with worldly Power and the Virtues, had yet to purge himself of the thought of Self-glory, which he did, and thus he became one of those nearest to God

201 For just ends was the world created

Solomon, in the midst of his worldly power and glory, never forgot God,

Nor Job in the midst of afflictions,

Nor other men of Power and Vision, whose patience and constancy brought them nearer to God

So should all the righteous strive to win the final Bliss, for truly grievous are the woes of Evil in the Final Account

202 The Gospel of Unity is the true Cure for Evil

For it gives the good news of God's Power Supreme, and His Mercy and Forgiveness again and again

It warns us to avoid Evil, for Evil arose from selfish Pride and Rebellion

No power has it over God's servants, sincere and true.

While Revelation comes as a gift free to all God's Creation

S 39 203 To God is due sincere devotion, and to Him alone there is none like unto Him

All nature obeys His laws, and our own growth and life proclaim Him Lord and Cherisher

How can we blaspheme?

We must serve Him, the One, the True, with sincere devotion, and follow His Law in its highest meaning or else the loss is our own

All nature proclaims aloud His Grace and Loving-kindness

204 What distance separates the man whose heart is melted by the Message of God and enlightened by His Light, and him who rejects Revelation !

God teaches men by Parables straight is His Word and clear

Any doubts in the minds of men will be resolved after Death

Even now, God's Signs are enough no other can guide Death and his twin-brother, Sleep, are in the hands of God to Him is our Goal He will judge in the End

His Will is all-in-all No other thing can be of any account before His Law

205 But no soul need be in despair because of its sin . God's Forgiveness and Mercy are unbounded

Turn to God in repentance now, for at Judgment it will be too late

Unity in worship and life is commanded by God Go not astray

When Judgment comes, it will be a new World

In perfect justice will the followers of Evil be sorted out from the Good.

And the righteous will rejoice, singing praises to God with the angels on high.

FRIENDS AND FOES ON THE LAST DAY

S 40 206 Believe in God, for He is Perfect in Knowledge and Power, forgives Sin and accepts Repentance, and justly enforces His Law

Those who reject Him are but in deceit His glory is sung by the highest and purest

Give all devotion to Him alone

The Day of Requital is ever drawing near, when Falsehood will vanish and God's Truth and Justice will be established for all Eternity.

207 Travel in space and time, and you will see that Evil came to nothing but evil.

Mighty men of old in arrogance plotted against God's Truth, but were brought low

A humble Believer in Pharaoh's Court stood up for Truth, and counselled his People to obey the Right

In earnest humility did he address them , they heard him not But he was saved and they were engulfed in the Wrath of God.

208 God's grace and help are ever ready for His servants who patiently persevere

Let not arrogance blind the souls of men . the Hour of Judgment is bound to come.

The keys of Life and Death are in the hands of God.

Dispute not the Signs of God, but learn from History and the world around you.

Science and skill avail you not if the soul is dead.

S 41 209 Revelation explains, and makes things clear ; it gives the message of hope and mercy, and it warns men against the snares of Evil

Deny not God, the Lord of the Worlds, Whose glory and power are shown in Creation, and His Mercy in Revelation

Learn from the fate of the Peoples of old !

Learn from the warnings of your own nature your very limbs and faculties, if misused, bear witness against you

Repent ere it be too late

210 The best of men is the man of Faith, who calls all men to share his Faith,

Whose life is pure, and whose law of life is the Will of God

Eschew all evil, and adore God, and Him alone

His Signs are everywhere, and His Message is the same through all the ages, a guide and a healing to those who believe

Dispute not, but live righteousness

Knowledge belongs to God, but Falsehood deprives man of hope, humility, and clear sight, and drives him to hypocrisy

So turn to Truth, and live

S 42 211 Inspiration is part of the Glory and Goodness of God His Unity is shown in His Creation , yet man will turn to false gods, and dispute about Religion

Faith has been one at all times, but sects and divisions rose through selfish contumacy

Let all contention cease, and conduct weighed by the just balance of God's Word.

The just and the unjust will be brought before God, Whose
Mercy and Bounty are writ large in the Signs in His marvellous
Creation,—one, yet diverse !

212 What we call the ills of life is due to our own ill-deeds,
and many of them are forgiven by God

His Plan can never be frustrated

This Life is but a stage of convenience live true and resist
all wrong, but learn the best way to do so

On God rely, else no protector will you find

God's Revelation comes as a Guide and Mercy it shows
the Straight Way, the Way of God All-Wise

S 43 213 Revelation makes everlasting Truths clear those who
mock merely undo themselves

Consider the Signs of God's gracious kindness around you,
and glorify Him

Attribute not unworthy qualities nor any companions to
the One True God

Seek Truth in worship more than mere ancestral ways,
and shut not out Revelation's Light

214 If the Arabs hark back to ancestry, why not accept
the Faith of Abraham the True ?

He joined not gods with God

Spiritual worth is measured by other things than gold or
silver or the adornments of this world These are but things
of the hour.

The lasting gifts are those of the Hereafter

If Israel goes back to Moses, how he was mocked by
Pharaoh in his pride of power !

Yet Pharaoh and his deluded people perished so ends the pomp and power and vanity of this world !

215 If Christians go back to Jesus, he was but a man and a servant of God

He came to still the jarring sects, not to create a new one
he preached the One True God, his Lord

So give up disputing, and join in devotion to God

That is the Way to the Garden of Bliss, but the opposite leads to the Fire

Beware ! the Truth has come, and God knows how you receive it

He is the Lord of Power and Mercy

The Truth must prevail resist it not

S 44 216 Blest is the night in which God's Message comes down, as a Mercy to men, to warn them against Evil

How fractious of men to ignore or suppress such warnings ?

Proud Pharaoh and his Chiefs did resist God's authority, but their sins rebounded on themselves

They were swallowed up by the sea , and their tilth, their gardens, their noble fanes and buildings, and all the advantages of which they boasted, passed to other hands

Not a tear was shed over them in heaven or earth.

Thus ends the tale of power misused

217 So with the Children of Israel granted gifts and favours, they became arrogant and fell

Can the Quraish escape the doom for sin ?

We created the world for just ends

The day will come when good and evil will be sorted out
each will meet the fruits of its own deeds

Give good heed to the Message revealed, and wait and watch

S 45 218 The Signs of God are everywhere His power,
wisdom, and goodness are shown through all Creation and in
Revelation

How can man be so ungrateful as to reject true Guidance
reaping thus the fruits of Evil ?

But men of Faith have patience and forgive their weaker
brethren, and trust in the final justice of God

Form no sects, as was done aforetime, nor make your lusts
your gods

The Future is sure, and in the hands of God, to Whom all
will bend the knee, when Truth will shine in all its glory

So praise and glory to God, the Lord and Cherisher of all
the worlds !

S 46 219 Creation is for just ends, and Falsehood is but straying
from the Path

Say what people may, truth carries its own vindication
follow it firmly

Let age think of youth, and youth not turn rebellious

There are fine gradations in the kingdom of God then
strive for the best.

Let not pride and arrogance undo you the humble are
often the best recipients of Truth

All will come right in good time so persevere with
patient firmness of purpose

Justice that seems to tarry comes really on swiftest foot but
sure.

ORGANISED COMMUNITY OF ISLAM

S 47 220 No plots against Truth or Faith will succeed but those who follow both will be strengthened

Be firm in the fight, and God will guide

Rebellion against God is destruction fidelity will cool the mind and feed the heart , it will warm the affections and sweeten life

Hypocrisy carries its own doom

221 Those eager for service want the call for service , but the hypocrites blench at such call

If it were not obeyed, and evil should get the upper hand, will it not stalk arrogant over the land, and trample underfoot all claims of right and kinship ?

Fight it, and fail not in the test of your mettle

Be bold and establish the Flag of Righteousness in the highest places

Thus comes Peace, for which due sacrifice must be made

S 48 222. Victory and Help go with calmness of mind, faith, fidelity, zeal, and earnestness, not with greed, lukewarmness, or timidity'

Discipline and obedience are essential for service

The rewards for service are not to be measured by immediate results, but accrue in countless hidden ways to Patience and Restraint.

Be strong against Evil, but kind and gentle amongst yourselves . the seed will grow and become strong, to your wonder and delight.

S. 49 223 Respectful behaviour to the Leader, in manner, voice, and demeanour, are the bonds and cement of an organised community

The whispers of rumour should be tested, and selfish impatience should be curbed to discipline

All quarrels should be composed, if necessary by the force of the community, but with perfect fairness and justice

Ridicule, taunts, and biting words, should be avoided, in presence or in absence

Suspicion and spying are unworthy of men who believe

All men are descended from one pair their honour depends, not on race, but on righteousness

Faith is not a matter of words, but of accepting God's Will and striving in His Cause

The coming into Islam confers no favour on others, but is itself a favour and a privilege, a guidance for those who are true and sincere

FINAL ADJUSTMENT OF TRUE VALUES

S 50. 224 The Apostle's credentials are the Revelation he brings
Let them not wonder at the Message or at the News of the
Hereafter

They have but to look at the starry heavens and at Nature around them to see God's goodness and His power to bring life out of the dead, and to punish all wrong

Every deed, word, and thought are in the eternal Record.
Death will open your eyes and make you see Realities

Then will every action bear its due fruit, and no soul can shift its responsibility on to another.

225 As Goodness has possibilities unlimited, so has Evil in the opposite direction

To those who bring a heart unsullied and to God devoted, will be Peace, Security, and Eternal Life—the Rays from God's own Presence

Adore ye God and pay no heed to whispers of Doubt and Evil these must vanish at Judgment, when Truth and Justice reign Supreme

S 51 226 Various are the ways of working we see in God's world,—strong and gentle, scattering and uniting

Through it all runs a Purpose true and stable, which we shall see fulfilled on the Day of Judgment and Justice, which must inevitably come to pass

Give up false doctrines, which agree not among themselves or with facts

For evil must end in evil, and good in joy and felicity

The good worship God and serve God's creatures those needing help are ever in their thoughts

They see Signs of God in all things in heaven and earth, and in their own hearts and minds

227 Even Abraham the True had need to be told before he could realise the purpose of God

Clear Signs were sent for warning, as, of old, to Pharaoh, the 'Ad, the Thamūd, and the people of Noah, and the warning inevitably came to pass.

Our Signs are for your instruction Heed them and learn by them.

Those who believe find profit in their lives .

Those who reject or deny,—alas ! they learn not from the past Woe unto them ! The loss is their own !

S 52 228 By the sacred Symbols—of the Mount Sublime, the Eternal Record on an open scroll, the House of Worship thronged with men, the Canopy blue of unfathomed heights, and the boundless Ocean with its resistless tidal Swell,—all acts of men must have their inevitable fruits

New worlds will be born with the Day of Doom new values established by God's Decree

Consumed will be Evil in the fire of Reality

And Good will come to its own—in personal and social Bliss, but most in the full realisation that God is good, the Beneficent, the Merciful

Proclaim, then, the praises of the Lord, nor heed the slanders of Ignorance or spite

For the Lord Who created will cherish , His Plan will overthrow the puny plots of men

Hold firm with patience in Faith in the Hereafter, and sing His praises even in the busy marts of this world,

But chiefly in the stillness of the Night and the holy hour of Dawn as the Stars retreat, singing glory to the Maker of their own most glorious Sun

S 53 229 True revelation is not a process either of error or deception, nor does the Prophet speak from himself as he desires

It is God's inspiration, true, without doubt.

It is reality,—the inner reality of heaven as far as knowledge can reach,

Not the false ideas and idols that men construct for themselves, names without truth behind them.

The goal of all things is God, as He is the One from Whom starts Reality.

No other can e'er intercede except as He wills.

He made us, and knows all that we are

It is not for us to justify ourselves, but to offer ourselves as we are

230 When once in God's Way, turn not away, nor check your generous impulse to give your all to God

The spiritual world unseen is above all worldly bargains

Each soul must bear its own responsibility It must strive its utmost and attain its end

The final Goal of all is God

In His hands are Laughter and Tears, Life and Death, the mystery of Birth and Creation, and the Hereafter

He controls our Bliss and inner satisfaction

He is Lord of the highest and noblest in Nature

His hand traces the course of History

Learn, oh learn from His Revelation, and adore the Lord of your inmost Soul !

54 231 With every breath of our life, comes nearer and nearer the Hour of Judgment

The proud 'will be brought low the lovers of ease will find themselves in hardship

Come ! is there any that will truly receive admonition ?

So said Noah, but his people rejected the warning and perished

We have made our Revelation easy to understand and follow

Is there any that will truly receive admonition ?

So said the prophets of 'Ad and Thamûd, so said the prophets deputed to the People of Lot and of Pharaoh · but the wicked continued in sin and defiance and perished

Will the present generation learn wisdom by warning ?

Alas ! Is there any that will truly receive admonition ?

The Righteous will dwell in their Gardens of Bliss,—

In the joyful Assembly of realised Truth, in the Presence of their Sovereign Most High !

S 55 232 God's creatures ! Which favours of God will ye deny ?

Most Gracious is God, Who reveals Himself in the Qur-ân, in man's Intelligence, and in the nature around man

Balance and Justice, Goodness and Care, are the Laws of His Worlds

Created from clay, man can yet comprehend the Lord of the Easts and the Wests, Him who sustains all His creatures,

Him Who bestows the Jewels of Life and Faith,

Him Who abides when all else perisheth,

Him Whose Eternity is the Hope of man's Future,

The Lord Everlasting of Justice and Glory and Bounty and Honour !

Which, then, of the favours of your Lord will ye deny ?

233 Let not Evil think that it will escape Justice . its tell-tale Mark is on those who follow it, and it must meet its Reward in the final adjustment.

But the Good, the Righteous, must reach their fulfilment in the Gardens of Bliss, where every Delight will be theirs in Beauty and Dignity

How can such Delights be pictured in words ? In symbols
subjective let each take his choice

For Good can there ever be any Reward other than Good ?

Beautiful sights and sounds, delicious fruits to nourish the
soul, and Companionship where Grace is mingled with Love,
may figure forth our Bliss

' Blessed be God, full of Majesty and Bounty

God's creatures ! what favours of God will ye deny ?

S 56 234 The Event Inevitable is the Day of Judgment

The world as we know it will be shaken to its depths, and
its place will be taken by a world made new, where Good
will be sorted out from Evil

In Dignity and Bliss will the Good find Fulfilment

Both those Nearest to the Throne of God and those who
earned, by faith and good life, the title, Companions of the
Right Hand

Who can tell of the Misery in which the Companions of
the Left Hand will live ?

They will be as it were in a fierce blast of Fire , their drink
but boiling water , their shade that of Black Smoke that
chokes their lungs ,—ever burning with hunger and thirst,
and never satisfied fit emblems of the Life in Death to
which Evil leads

235 Learn ye then to witness the Truth in your lives

Your own creation and growth, the seeds that ye sow in
the ground, the Circuit of Water through streams, rivers,
and seas, to vapour, clouds, and rain that feeds the streams,
the Fire that stands as an emblem of Life and Light,—all
point to your Lord Supreme

His Revelation conveys the same Message to the pure in heart

Will ye receive it and live, assured of the truth of the Hereafter ?

Glory and Praise to God the Beneficent, Supreme in Justice, Mercy, and Truth !

HOW TO STRENGTHEN THE SOCIETY OF ISLAM

S 57 236 God is all-in-all follow His Law and His Light, and obey His Apostle, who invites you to deeds of goodness and charity

Strive and spend your resources and yourselves in the Cause of God

He will grant you a Light to go before you and guide you to your Eternal Goal, where no Evil can enter

When success crowns your efforts, even then is the time to humble yourselves before God, in sincere witness to His Love

The pleasures here below are deceptive be foremost in seeking God and His Good Pleasure

Trust Him be not like those who mistook mere renunciation of the world for God's service

God's Grace is for all be your love and your service for all.

S 58 237 Let not false pretences or superstitions degrade the position of woman.

Eschew secret plottings and secret counsels.

Observe order and decorum in public assemblies, and seek not in selfish pride to engage your Leader's private attention.

It is wrong to turn to the enemies of God for friendship
they make their oaths a cloak for wrong-doing, and keep
back men from the Right

But none can resist the Power or the Judgment of God
The Righteous seek only His Good Pleasure, and rejoice
therein as their highest Achievement

S 59 238 God's wisdom foils the treachery of men, and makes
the path smooth for Believers who strive even against odds
Against God's decrees all resistance is vain

In property taken from the enemy, let those in need have
a share, and those who sacrifice their all for the Cause

But those who lend a helping hand in the hour of need
do it for love and crave no reward, nor feel the least envy or
jealousy

They all rejoice that the Brotherhood should thrive

Not so the Hypocrites they are false even among them-
selves

Perdition is the end of all evil But the Good and Faithful
will achieve felicity

Such is the power of Truth and God's Revelation

God ! There is no god but He !—the Good, the Glorious,
the Irresistible !

All Creation sings His praise,—the Exalted in Might, the
Wise !

S 60 239 What social relations should you hold with men
whose hearts are filled with rancour,—who hate both God
and men of God ?

Surely you cannot offer love and friendship to such as
seek to destroy your Faith and you

Seek protection for you and yours from God and not from God's sworn enemies

But deal kindly and justly with all it may be that those who hate you now may love you for God can order all things

But look not for protection to those who are bent on driving you out

Let not believing women be handed over to Unbelievers . no marriage tie is lawful between them.

When women wish to join your society, take their assurance that they yield not to sin or unbeseeming conduct

Take every care to keep your society free and pure, and self-contained

S 61 240 God's glory shines through all the universe

What deeds of unity and discipline, of love and righteousness, have you to show in conduct ?

Or do you only mock and insult the apostles as they did of old ?

Nay, trust in God and strive your utmost in His Cause

Little have you to give, but glorious is the reward that God will give you,—now and in the Eternal Life to come !

S. 62 241 God's care for His creatures is universal

His Revelation is for all—ignorant and lowly as well as learned and high-placed,—now and for ever

None can arrogantly claim exclusive possession of God's gifts

If they do, search their hearts within, and you will find them afraid of Death and Judgment.

Men of Faith ! On the Day of Assembly, when you hear the call, hasten earnestly to answer it leave off business, and join in common worship and devotion

Then you may disperse about your ordinary business, but remember the Praises of God always

It is He alone that can provide for your every need, and His gifts are best

S 63 242 The Oaths of Hypocrites are a screen for their misdeeds.

They think they deceive with their fair exteriors and plausible talk, but their minds are impervious to the real Truth

They may plot to withhold from men of God such things of this world as they may command ,

They may plot to expel and persecute the righteous , they may call them ill names and slight them

But to God belong the treasures of the heavens and the earth, and He will bestow according to His wise and universal Plan

Let not the world's foolish craze divert the Believers from the service of God—from good deeds and Charity

Now is the time all vain will be your pleas and your regrets when the shadow of Death cuts off your last chance of Repentance !

S 64 243 The self-same God created all men

If some do good and others evil, and ye wonder how the good do suffer and the evil thrive, remember the Final Goal, when true adjustments will be made

The Gainers here will be the Losers there, and the Losers Gainers.

Some of this exchange you will see even here, in this life, for Unbelievers who deny the Hereafter ,

But in the Hereafter, full account and true adjustment of
good and ill will follow before the Judgment-Seat

Nay, Good will get more than its full reward

For God is Bounteous, Merciful, Mighty, Wise

S 65 244 Guard well your truth and pure integrity in sex
relations

Keep the tie of marriage sacred ,

But where it must be dissolved, use all precautions to
ensure justice to the weaker party and protect the interests
of unborn or new-born lives as well as social decency ,

And close not to the last the door of reconciliation

God's Laws must be obeyed 'tis man's own loss if he is
deaf to the Voice which teaches him, or blind to the Light
which guides him

God's universe of beauty and wonder stands strong in
wisdom Let man but tune himself thereto

S 66 245 The relations between the sexes are embittered by
misunderstandings and conflicts that produce unhappiness
and misery, personal and social

Harmony and confidence are due between the sexes,

Not disgust or isolation, which may please some but cause
injustice to others

Respect each other's confidence, and if you fail, repent and
make amends

The good man seeks virtue for himself and his family

If Evil is yoked to Good it must take the fruit of its own
deeds , the worldly tie will profit naught ,

But Good should firmly make a stand, and will be saved,
for God doth care for all His true devoted Servants

MYSTIC GLIMPSES OF REALITY

S 67 246 Lordship in right and in fact belongs to God Most Gracious, Whose Goodness and Glory and Power are writ large on all His Creation

The beauty and order of the Heavens above us proclaim Him

Then who can reject His Call but those in pitiful delusion ?
And who can fail to accept, that truly knows himself and the mighty Reality behind him ?

The earth and the good things thereof are prepared for man by his Gracious Lord, Who guards him from hourly dangers

Who sustains the wonderful flight of the Birds in mid-air ?
Above, and below, and in mid-air can we see His boundless Signs

We know that His Promise of the Hereafter is true
The spring and source of the goodness of things is in Him, and will appear triumphant when the Hour is established

S 68 247 The Pen is the symbol of the permanent Record, the written Decree, the perfect Order in the government of the world

And by that token, the man of God comes with a Plan and guidance that must win against all detraction

Truth is high above Slander
But men must be tried against selfishness and overweening confidence in themselves, such as would lead them to forget God and His providence,—

Like the brothers who built castles in the air about their garden and found it desolate in one night's storm

But repentance brought them forgiveness thus work the Wrath and the Mercy of God.

248 To evil and good there can never be the same end
No authority can the unjust produce for their false imaginings

In shame will they realise this on the Day when all illusions will vanish and they find that the time for repentance is past

The good man should wait and should never lose patience, even though things go dead against him

Jonah suffered in agony, but his sincere repentance brought him the grace of his Lord, and he joined the company of the Righteous ,

For Truth is firm and unshaken, is calm and works good, through all God's Creation

S 69. 249 In this fleeting world few things are what they seem
What then is sure Reality ?

Nations and men in the past assumed arrogance and perished because they were unjust,

But that destruction was but a foretaste of the Doom to come in the Hereafter, when all Creation will be on a new plane, and true values will be fully established

To the Righteous will be bliss, and to Evil, Punishment

The Word of Revelation is not a Poet's imagination or a Soothsayer's groping into the future

It is God's own Message, of Mercy to the Righteous, and warning to those who reject the Truth

Praise and glory to the name of God Most High !

S 70. 250 Man can ascend to the Presence of God, but by gradual Ways and in process of Time

But what is Time ? A Day is as fifty thousand years on two different planes

What seems near is far, and what seems far is near
So will be Judgment, when things as we know them will
be transformed completely in a world all new

Evil will come to its own, whatever its masks in this transitory world, and good will surely reach its goal

The good life is patient, in prayer and well-doing, Faith, and the earnest search for the Good Pleasure of God, purity and probity

These are the paths to the Heights and the Gardens of Bliss
No evil can enter there

For the evil are other ways, leading by a steep descent to dark Ignominy !

S 71 251 The Prophet's Message, as was that of Noah, is a warning against sin, and the Good News of Mercy through the door of Repentance

For God is loving and long-suffering, and His Signs are within us and around us

But the sinners are obstinate they plot against Righteousness, and place their trust in futile falsehoods

They will be swept away, and the earth will be purged of Evil

Let us pray for Mercy and Grace for ourselves, for those nearest and dearest to us, and for all who turn in faith to God, in all ages and all countries, and among all Peoples

S 72 252 Spiritual Truth finds its lodgment in all sorts of unexpected places, and in all sorts of unexpected ways

The man of God, when most depressed by the buffets of a world steeped in selfishness, sees a glorious vision

Hidden spiritual forces work for him, make known the

truth in marvellous ways, and proclaim the Goodness and Judgment of God

They reject all Error and lead others to purify their wills and come to God.

Behold ! Every place and time, every gift is meet for the service of God, the One, the True, Whose Word the righteous one proclaims and must proclaim at all cost

Man's duty is plain, but in the Kingdom of God, through God's chosen ones, we rise to higher and higher Mysteries as may be expedient for us

Yet when or how our End may be, is not given to man to know

Let him but take the Treasures well-guarded, that come to him, and praise the Lord of all Knowledge and Wisdom !

S 73 253 Devote yourself to the service of God in the stillness of the night, but not all night

In the world's persecution rely on God, Who will deal with His enemies fittingly

(*Note to S 72* It was two years before the Hijrat, when the Prophet, despised and rejected in his native city of Mecca, went to evangelise the lordly men of Tāif. They maltreated him and nearly killed him, what caused him even greater pain was the maltreatment of the humble and lowly men who went with him. Tabari has handed down that memorable Prayer of faith and humility which he offered in the midst of his suffering. On his return journey to Mecca, a glorious vision was revealed to him,—hidden spiritual forces working for him,—people not known to him accepting his mission while his own people were still rejecting him. Within two months some strangers from Medina had privately met him and laid the foundations of that Hijrat which was to change the fate of Arabia and the course of world-history)

Let not God's service be a matter of difficulty to you
Do all your duties in whole-hearted remembrance of God,
and ever seek His bountiful Grace

S 74 254 The Seer, by devotion and contemplation, prepares himself for the duties of Guide and Leader to mankind

But when there comes the clear Call, he must stand forth and proclaim the Message,—in purity, unselfish devotion, and patience, long-suffering,—

To save men from the Distress of the Final Day

For many there be who glory in a life of ease and plenty, arrogant splendour, and the applause of men,

Who scorn God's Truth and reject the divine

How will they fare when the Judgment comes, and the Penalty ?

Every Fact in Life's grand Pageant is but a Portent for the Future

Every soul is in pledge and must redeem itself by Faith and Prayer, by charity and earnest care for the Realities of life

Bring but the will, and God will guide,—the Lord of Righteousness, the Lord of Mercy and Forgiveness !

S 75 255 Eschew all Evil for man was not created without purpose or without responsibility

The Day of Account will come, and his own Conscience bears witness that he must walk straight, for he must face that Day's Realities

With patience await the unfoldment of God's wise Purpose

Keep the Hereafter ever in view

The faces of the Blest will beam with brightness and beauty

For the others, Death will be a terror,—for duties neglected and sins committed

Woe unto man that he thinks not now of God's Purpose and the noble Destiny for which God gave him Life and its Gifts

S 76 256 Man was evolved out of nothing, and through low beginnings, but he was given Insight and Understanding

God showed him the Way, and if man doth wilfully reject the Right, man but chooses Chains and Yokes and a Blazing Fire within his own soul

Not so the Devotees of Right. they attain the Mystic Fountain of Kafur

For, purely out of love for God, they do good to God's Creatures, and serve them.

The Light of Beauty and Joy will be on them

In full felicity and honour will they live in the Garden of Delights, and share in the Banquet—the Presence and Glory Divine !

* * *

The Righteous are patient in Constant Devotion .

God's Way is open to all whosoever has the Will, may attain to the Perfect Goal.

S. 77 257 The winds in the world of nature are types of God's Bounty and Power :

They gently bring the beneficent rain, and when roused to wrath, they clean the world and wipe out Infection.

So works God's Revelation, in sunshine and storm

It will root out Evil, and restore true values at Judgment.

Truly terrible will be that Day for the evil ones.

It will be a Day of Sorting out ah woe, that Day, to the Rejecters of Truth !

Will man not learn from his own little story, or from nature around him ?

The blazing Fire will be indeed an enveloping Punishment
How dreadful the contrast with the Bliss of the Righteous !

Learn ye, therefore, Humility, and approach God's Throne
in Repentance and Earnest Endeavour

THE HEREAFTER

3 78 258 The Great News for man, in his spiritual Destiny, is
the Judgment to come, the Day of Sorting Out

Do not the Power, the Goodness, and the Justice of God
reveal themselves in all nature ?—

The Panorama around us, the voice in our souls, and the
harmony between heaven and earth ?

That Day is sure to arrive at its time appointed, when
behold ! the present order will pass away

Then will the Fruits of Evil appear, and the Fruits of
Righteousness

God's blessings will be infinitely more than the merits of
men can ever deserve ,

But who can argue with the Fountain of Grace ? And
who can prevent the course of Justice ?

Let us then, before it becomes too late, betake ourselves
to our Lord Most Gracious !

3 79 259. Never can Evil escape God's order and law .

His angels are ever present to bring the wicked to their
bearings,

And they ever strive and press forward to bring comfort, succour, and God's Mercy to those who seek it

Then will come the Day when the proud shall be humbled, though they deny the coming Judgment

What happened to Pharaoh ? He flouted God's Message specially sent to him, and arrogantly proclaimed "I am your Lord Most High !"

He perished in this life and will answer for his deeds in the next

* * *

But can ye not see, O men, the mighty works of God in the heavens and on earth ?—

The darksome splendour of the Night with its Stars, and the daylight splendour of the Sun ?—

How the earth, with its spacious expanse and its mountains, yields moisture and pasture, and feeds and sustains men and cattle, through God's wise Providence ?

Ah ! transgress not all bounds and earn not the Fire of Punishment,

But fear God and His Judgment, and prepare for the Garden of Perpetual Bliss

Delay not ! The Judgment is sure, and it's nigh !

S 80 260 Men not blest with the good things of this life may yet be earnest seekers of Truth and Purity,

And deserve as much attention as those who seem to wield some influence, yet who in their pride are self-sufficient

God's Message is universal all have a right to hear it

Held high in honour, kept pure and holy, it should be writ by none but good and honourable men.

* * *

God's Grace is showered on man not less for his inner growth than in his outward life

There must be a final Reckoning, when each soul must stand on its own past Record

The faces, then, of the Blest will beam with Joy and Light,
While the Doers of Iniquity will hide in Dust and Shame
and Darkness

; 81 261 How can the soul's self-conviction be fitly expressed, except by types of tremendous cataclysms in nature, and still more by tremendous searchings in the heart of man?

These want deep pondering

When once the spiritual Dawn has "breathed away" the Darkness of the Night, the Vision Glorious clears all doubts, and brings us face to face with Truth

The highest Archangel in heaven is sent by God to bring these truths to men through their Apostle

God's Grace flows freely we have but to tune our Will to His,—the ever-loving Righteous God

; 82 262 How fixed is the order holding together this material universe above and below us?

Yet it must give way before the vast Unfathomed Truth in which man will see his past and his future in true perspective

To God he owes his life and all its blessings will he not see that the Future depends on Right and Justice?

Righteousness must come to its own, and so must Discord and Rebellion.

The Day must come when Discord must finally cease, and the Peace of God and His Command are all-in-all

S. 83 263. Shun Fraud in all things .

In little things of daily life, but specially in those subtler forms of higher life, which will be exposed to view at Judgment, however hidden they may be in this life

Give every one his due

For the Record of ill' deeds and good is fully kept, and the stains of sin corrupt the soul

Reject not the Real now, nor mock

For the time will come when the True will come to its own, and then the mighty arrogant will be abased !

S. 84. 264 All mysteries, fair or shrouded in gloom, will vanish when the full Reality stands revealed

If this Life is but Painful toil, there's the Hope of the Meeting with the Lord !

That will be Bliss indeed for the Righteous, but woe to the arrogant dealers in sin !

Like the sunset Glow or the Shades of Night, or the Moon's ever-changing light, man's life never rests here below, but travels ever onwards stage by stage

Grasp then God's Message and reach the Heights, to reap a Reward that will never fail through all eternity !

S. 85 265 Woe to those who persecute Truth !

They are being watched by mighty Eyes ,—

The eyes of the Stars of the Darkness of Night, the searching shafts of the Future afar, and the men and angels of the Light within ,—

They will have to answer when Judgment comes , and a clear Record will witness against them

Are they cruel to men because of their Faith ?

The Fire they use will be turned against them
For God is strong, and will subdue the mightiest foes
Be warned, and learn from His gracious Message, preserved
through all Time !

§ 86 266 Through the darkest night comes the penetrating light
of a glorious Star

Such is the power of Revelation it protects and guides
the erring

For what is man ? But a creature of flesh and bones !

But God by His Power doth raise man's state to a Life
Beyond !—when lo ! all things hidden will be made plain

Man's help will then be but the Word of God, which none
can thwart

So wait with gentle patience—for His Decision

87 267 Wonderful are the ways of God in Creation,
And the love with which He guides His creatures' destinies,
Gives them the means by which to strive for maturity by
ordered steps,

And reach the end most fitted for their natures

His Law is just and easy, and His Grace is ever ready to help

Let us look to the Eternal Goal, with hearts and souls of
Purity, and glorify His name

For in this changing, fleeting world, his Word is always
true, and will remain, through all the ages, ever the same

88 268 Have you heard of that Tremendous Day when the
Good from the Evil will be separated ?

There will be Souls that Day will burn and grovel in the
blazing Fire of Wrath !

No Food can fill their Hunger no Drink, alas, can slake
their fierce Thirst !

There will be Souls that Day will shout with Joy to the
glory of their Lord !

Their past Endeavour will now be Achievement

Raised high on Thrones of Dignity they will be guests at
the sumptuous Feast of Bliss

Let man but look at his dominion o'er the beasts of the
field,

Or his glorious Canopy of stars,

Or the Eternal Hills that feed his streams,

Or the wide expanse of Mother Earth that nurtures him,
And he will see the ordered Plan of God

To Him must he return and give account !

Let him, then, learn his Lesson and live

S 89 269. Man is apt to forget the contrasts in nature and life,
and all that they mean in his spiritual growth

Perchance his mind is so absorbed in what he sees, that he
doubts the vast Realities he does not see

The Present makes him blind to the Past and to the Future
Fooled by glory, he fears not a fall ,

(Note Man is easily cowed by contrasts in his own fortunes, and
yet he does not learn from them the lesson of forbearance and kind-
ness to others, and the final elevation of goodness in the Hereafter
When all the things on which his mind and heart are set on this
earth shall be crushed to nothingness, he will see the real glory and
power, love and beauty, of God, for these are the light of the Garden
of Paradise.)

And baulked in disaster, he gives up Hope and sometimes
Faith

Let him study Nature and History, and restore his Faith

Realising the Sure Event, the Hereafter, let him find his
fullest fulfilment in the service and the Good-Pleasure of God !

MAN'S STRUGGLES AND HIS HIGH DESTINY

S 90 270 The Prophet's own City persecuted him
Honoured by his nativity, it sought to slay him
Yet he loved it and purged it of all that was wrong
What toil and struggle did it not involve ?
Man is made for toil and struggle
Let him not boast of ease and wealth
He will be called to account for all his doings
Let him use his God-given faculties, and tread the steep
path that leads to Heaven's Heights
The steps thereto are Love, unselfish Love, given freely to
God's creatures—all those in need—and Faith in God, and
Patience joined with self-restraint and kindness
Thus only can we reach the ranks of the blest Companions
of the Right Hand !

S 91. 271 All nature around us and her pageants, and the soul
of man within, proclaim the goodness of God
God gave the soul the power of choice and the sense of
Right and Wrong
Let man keep it pure and attain Salvation,—soil it with
sin and reach Perdition
Inordinate wrong-doing ruined the Thamūd
They defied God's sacred Law and His prophet, and went
to Destruction for their crime.

S 92 272 When we consider God's wonderful Creation, we see many mysteries—many opposites—many differences ,

The succession of nights and days, the creation of male and female

Can we wonder at the differences in the nature and objectives of man ?

He is endowed with Will, and he must strive for the Right through all his diverse paths

For the righteous the way is made the smoother for Bliss ,

For the arrogant crooked will, the way is the smoother for Misery

But God's guidance is always nigh, if man will choose it

And what is the goal for those who choose aright ?—

The sight of the Face of God Most High for that indeed is happiness supreme

S 93 273 What an example we have in the Prophet's life !

When moments of inspiration were still, his soul yet felt the power of that stillness,

Like one who prays by night and waits for the dawn, knowing how the light grows brighter every hour till noon,

And well content that night and morn and the hours succeeding are but steps to the plenary splendour of noon

He was content and consoled in the thought that God had bestowed His loving care on him in the past, and so the future was sure

He followed the Light Divine,—

To help the helpless, to attend with patience to the call of those in need, and to rehearse and proclaim and share the boundless Bounties of God !

S 94 274 The Prophet's mind and heart had indeed been expanded and purified ,

The burden which pressed on his soul had been removed ,
And his name exalted in this world and the next

For the righteous man there is no trouble but is linked
with ease and joy

He must strive at every stage, and look to God alone as
the goal of all his hopes.

S 95 275 Nature and history and the Light of Revelation,
through the ages, show

That man, created by God in the best of moulds, can yet
fall to the lowest depths,

Unless he lives a life of faith and righteousness.

Then will he reach his goal :

If not, he must stand his Judgment—none can doubt—
before the wisest and justest of Judges

S 96 276 Noble is the mission of the Prophet, selected to
proclaim the Message of God,

The Lord and Cherisher of all His Creation, whose measureless
bounties include the instruction of man in new and ever
new knowledge.

But alas for man ! he fancies himself self-sufficient,

Turns away from the Path, and misleads others.

But nothing is hidden from God

He will bring all untruth and sin and rebellion to Judgment,
and subdue all evil

The righteous bow in adoration to God, and draw closer to
Him.

S 97 277. Blessed indeed is the Night of Power !—

When the Mercy of God's Revelation breaks through the darkness of the human soul !

All the Powers, of the world divine, speed on their mystic Message of Mercy, by God's command,

And bless every nook and corner of the heart !

All jars are stilled in the reign supreme of Peace,

Until this mortal night gives place to the glorious day of an immortal world !

S 98 278 But those who reject the light of Truth are obstinate

Why should they persist in evil ways when the Clear Evidence has come before them ?

The straight Religion is simple

To adore with a pure heart the God of Truth, to draw nigh to Him in Prayer sincere, and to serve our fellow-creatures in charity and love

To do aught else is to fall from Grace

But Faith and Good Life lead straight to the Goal,—

The beauteous Gardens of Bliss Eternal, and the mutual good pleasure of the Soul in her Lord.

S. 99 279 The Hour of Judgment must needs be heralded by a mighty Convulsion

The Earth will give up her secrets and tell her tale of all man's doings

Men will march in companies and clearly see the inwardness of all their Deeds

Not an atom of Good or Evil done, but will be shown in the final Account of men convinced.

S 100 280 There are those that fight, with eager charge, the hosts of evil, and storm its citadel

But unregenerate Man shows less than gratitude for God's most gracious bounties .

His life bears witness to his treason and his greed

God's knowledge is all-embracing all things hidden will be laid bare at Judgment

S 101 281 How will the senses of man stand the Noise and Clamour of the Great Day of Account,

Whereon this life's old landmarks will vanish, and men will be helpless like scattered moths ?

Nay, but a Balance of Justice will weigh and appraise all Deeds

And those whose good will show substance and weight will achieve a Life of good pleasure and satisfaction,

While those whose good will be light will find themselves, alas, in a blazing Pit of Punishment

S 102 282 Be not engrossed in things ephemeral, to the neglect of higher things in life

Life is short, and Death will soon claim you

Oh that men would only learn, before it is too late, the serious issues of the higher life !

They must taste the consequences of their neglect.

For every good enjoyed they must in the Hereafter give a strict account

S 103 283. Waste not, nor misuse, your life

Time through the Ages bears witness that nothing remains but Faith and Good Deeds,

And the teaching of Truth and the teaching of Patience and
Constancy

But for these, Man against Time is in loss !

PITFALLS FOR MAN

; 104 284 Woe to the man or woman who deals in scandal,
in word or act, or by insults or suggestions

Woe to the backbiter, e'en if his tale is true, for the taint
is in his motive

Woe to the miser who blocks up the channels of use and
service and dams up his wealth,

As if he could remain in possession for all time !

The Fire of Wrath will envelop them and wither up their
hearts and minds,

And consume that largeness of life which is the portion of
mankind

; 105. 285 Let not man be intoxicated with power or material
resources .

They cannot defeat the purpose of God

So Abraha Ashram found to his cost

His sacrilegious attack on the holy Fane of God brought
about his own undoing

What seemed but frail destroyed his mighty hosts in a day !

(Note This early Meccan Sūra refers to an event that happened
in the year of the birth of our holy Prophet, say about A D 570
Yaman was then under the rule of the Abyssinians (Christians), who
had driven out the Jewish Himyar rulers Abraha Ashram was the
Abyssinian governor or viceroy Intoxicated with power and fired
by religious fanaticism, he led a big expedition against Mecca, intend-

106 286 Who gave the Quraish their talents for the arts of Peace, for trade and commerce, and for journeys south and north at proper seasons,

And made their home inviolable in Mecca ?

Surely they, if any, should adore their Lord and listen to His Message of Unity and Truth

107 287 What remains if you deny all Faith and personal Responsibility ?

Why then help the helpless or teach others deeds of Charity ?

Vain were worship without heart and soul

What think ye of men who make great show, but fail to meet the simple needs of daily life ?

108 288 To the man of God, rich in divine blessings, is granted a Fountain unfailing,

That will quench the spiritual thirst of millions

Turn, then, in devotion and sacrifice to God,

Nor heed the venom of Hatred, which destroys its own hopes, alas, of the present and the future !

109. 289 The man of Faith holds fast to his faith, because he knows it is true

ing to destroy the Ka'ba He had an elephant or elephants in his train But his sacrilegious intentions were defeated by a miracle No defence was offered by the custodians of the Ka'ba, as the army was too strong for them, but it was believed that a shower of stones, thrown by flocks of birds, destroyed the invading army almost to a man. The stones produced sores and pustules on the skin, which spread like a pestilence)

The man of the world, rejecting Faith, clings hard to worldly interests

Let him mind his worldly interests, but let him not force his interests on men sincere and true, by favour, force, or fraud.

S. 110 290 For that which is right the help of God is ever nigh, and victory !

When the spirit of men is stirred, they come to the flag of faith in troops and battalions

They are to be welcomed but Praise and Glory belong to God

To Him we humbly turn and pray for Grace for He is Oft-Returning in Grace and Mercy

S 111 291 The Chosen One of God, in his earnest desire to proclaim the Message, gathered his kin together to hear and judge with open minds between error and truth

Behold, the fiery "Father of Flame" blazed up with foul abuse and curses, and said to the holy one "Perish thou !"

With his hands he took stones and cast them at the holy one's head

Purse-proud he headed relentless persecution.

His wife laid snares, tied thorns with twisted ropes of prickly palm-leaf fibre, and strewed them in the holy one's path on darkest nights, for cruel sport !

But lo ! the curses, insults, spite, harmed not the Innocent,

But hit the wrong-doers themselves and branded them with eternal infamy !

S. 112. 292. Keep Faith all pure and undefiled.

There is God, the One and Only ,

Eternal, Free of all needs ,
On Whom depend, to Whom go back, all things ,
He hath no son nor father nor partner
There is no person like unto Him

S 113 293 It is God Who brings forth light from darkness,
Life and activity from death,
Spiritual enlightenment from ignorance and superstition
Banish fear, and trust His Providence
No danger, then, from the outer world,
No secret plottings from perverted wills,
No disturbance of your happiness or good,
Can affect the fortress of your inmost soul

S 114 294 Insidious Evil lies in wait for man,
And loves to whisper and withdraw, thus testing his will
But man can make God his sure shield ,
'Tis God who cares for him and cherishes him
God is the heavenly King Who gives him laws ,
And God is the Goal to which he will return and be judged
Let man but place himself in God's hands, and never can
Evil touch him in his essential inner life

CONCLUSION

295 Thus spake, inspired, our holy Prophet, Muhammad, on whom we invoke God's blessings for ever and ever,—

We who are heirs to his teaching, his exemplary life, and the golden thread which he inwove into the web of human history

In pious retreats he prayed, much thought he gave to Life's most obstinate tangles, 'gainst odds he strove with might and main, wisely he led, gently he counselled, and firmly he subdued Evil

296 Mantle-clad ¹ he solved the most baffling mysteries
His soul would scale the heights of Heaven, yet showered its love on the weak and lowly of this earth

Like a cloud that catches the glory of the Sun, he threw his protecting shade on all

The widow's cry, and the orphan's, found an answer in his heart, as did the cry of Penury and Need

He searched out those who felt no need, being by pride or ignorance blinded, and he fulfilled their real wants

His last great charge summed up the rule of spiritual life in linking Faith with one universal Brotherhood

Ah ! ne'er shall we see such life again !

¹ An epithet of mystic meaning, applied to the Prophet in the Qur-ān, S 14, 1 I have in my mind a reminiscence of an Urdu Na't or Song in praise of the holy Prophet.

297 But his clarion voice still speaks his message
His love and wisdom still pour forth without stint the
inexhaustible Treasures of God, for whosoe'er will bring a
purified heart to receive them

And ne'er did the world, impoverished by its own way-
ward lusts and greed, need those Treasures more than now !

298 There's still with us much sorrow and sin, injustice,
oppression, wrong, and hate

Still does arrogance deaden Conscience,
Rob struggling souls of e'en the crumbs of Pity,
And make, of loathsome flesh and crumbling dust, fair-
seeming Idols for worship

Still does Ignorance blow a mighty Horn and try to shame
true Wisdom

Still do men drive Slaves,—protesting smoothly the end of
Slavery !

Still does Greed devour the substance of helpless ones
within her power

Nay, more,—the fine Individual Voice is smothered in the
raucous din of Groups and Crowds that madly shout what
they call Slogans New,—

Old falsehoods long discredited !

299 What can we do to make God's Light shine forth
through the Darkness around us ?

We must first let it shine in our own true Selves !

With that Light in the niche of our inmost hearts we can
walk with steps both firm and sure

We can humbly visit the comfortless and guide their steps.

Not we, but the Light will guide !

But Oh ! the joy of being found worthy to bear the Torch,
and to say to our brethren

“ I too was in Darkness, Comfortless, and behold, I have
found Comfort and Joy in the Grace Divine ! ”

300 Thus should we pay the dues of Brotherhood,—
By walking humbly, side by side, in the Ways of the
Lord,

With mutual aid and comfort, and heartfelt prayer, backed
by action,

That God’s good Purpose may be accomplished in us all
together !

